

Aussie stars come back for Sweden match

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITIS

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER

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WORLD CUP STARS IN AUSTRALIA

BOB PAISLEY DEAD

**Full Story
inside**

J-LEAGUE CLUBS

*take on Marconi,
Olympic & St. George*

ERICSSON CUP - ROUND 20

TABLE

TOTAL

	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A
UTS Olympic	41	20	12	5	3	39	21
Marconi Fairfield	40	20	12	4	4	38	22
Brisbane Strikers	36	20	11	3	6	35	22
Sydney United	32	20	8	8	4	25	17
West Adelaide	31	20	9	4	7	28	25
Melbourne Knights	29	19	8	5	6	18	13
Adelaide City	28	20	8	4	8	33	27
South Melbourne	26	20	8	2	10	31	35
Morwell Falcons	25	20	7	4	9	23	35
Canberra Cosmos	21	20	5	6	9	33	36
Newcastle Breakers	11	19	2	5	12	20	41
Wollongong City	11	20	3	2	15	15	44

HOME

	P	W	D	L	F	A
UTS Olympic	10	7	3	0	20	6
Marconi Fairfield	11	6	3	2	20	14
Brisbane Strikers	10	7	2	1	28	7
Sydney United	9	5	1	3	15	7
West Adelaide	11	7	1	3	17	11
Melbourne Knights	10	6	1	3	11	5
Adelaide City	10	4	3	3	20	10
South Melbourne	10	5	2	3	21	15
Morwell Falcons	9	4	1	4	12	14
Canberra Cosmos	10	3	4	3	18	14
Newcastle Breakers	10	1	5	4	14	18
Wollongong City	9	2	0	7	6	15

AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A
UTS Olympic	10	5	2	3	19	15
Marconi Fairfield	9	6	1	2	18	8
Brisbane Strikers	10	4	1	5	7	15
Sydney United	11	3	7	1	10	10
West Adelaide	9	2	3	4	11	14
Melbourne Knights	9	2	4	3	7	8
Adelaide City	10	4	1	5	13	17
South Melbourne	10	3	0	7	10	20
Morwell Falcons	11	3	3	5	11	21
Canberra Cosmos	10	2	2	6	15	22
Newcastle Breakers	9	1	0	8	6	23
Wollongong City	11	1	2	8	9	29

W WIN 3 Points - D DRAW 1 Points - L LOSS 0

RESULTS

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS5
(Thomas 110, Halpin (33, 45, 62, Dee 49 og)
CANBERRA COSMOS5
(Wade 53, 58, Musitano 69, Kelly 78, Dunn 83)
BRISBANE STRIKERS1
(Forshaw 42 og)
WOLLONGONG CITY1
(Lloyd 76)
MARCONI FAIRFIELD1
(Bingley 79)

UTS OLYMPIC3
(Poimer 4, Trajanovski 23, 44 pen)
MORWELL FALCONS0
SYDNEY UNITED0
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS0
ADELAIDE CITY1
(Hassell 38)
WEST ADELAIDE0
SOUTH MELBOURNE2
(Sherifovski 42, Curcija 90)

CROWDS

SEASON BEST: 13,956 - South Melbourne v West Adelaide - Round 9
ROUND 20 BEST: 11,866 Marconi Fairfield v UTS Olympic. TOTAL ROUND 20: 31,996
SEASON TOTAL: 536,081. AVERAGE PER MATCH: 4,504.

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AUSTRALIA V SWEDEN

Sweden want revenge

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Eddie Thomson, Australia's national coach, needs little assistance to remind him of the dangers lurking for him and the national squad in the coming two match series against the illustrious national team of Sweden.

The first game is on Sunday, at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane with a 7.30pm kick off.

The teams meet again on Wednesday February 28 with a 7.30 kick off at the Sydney Football Stadium.

"We wanted quality opposition, well we've now got it," Thomson said as he laughed ironically last night.

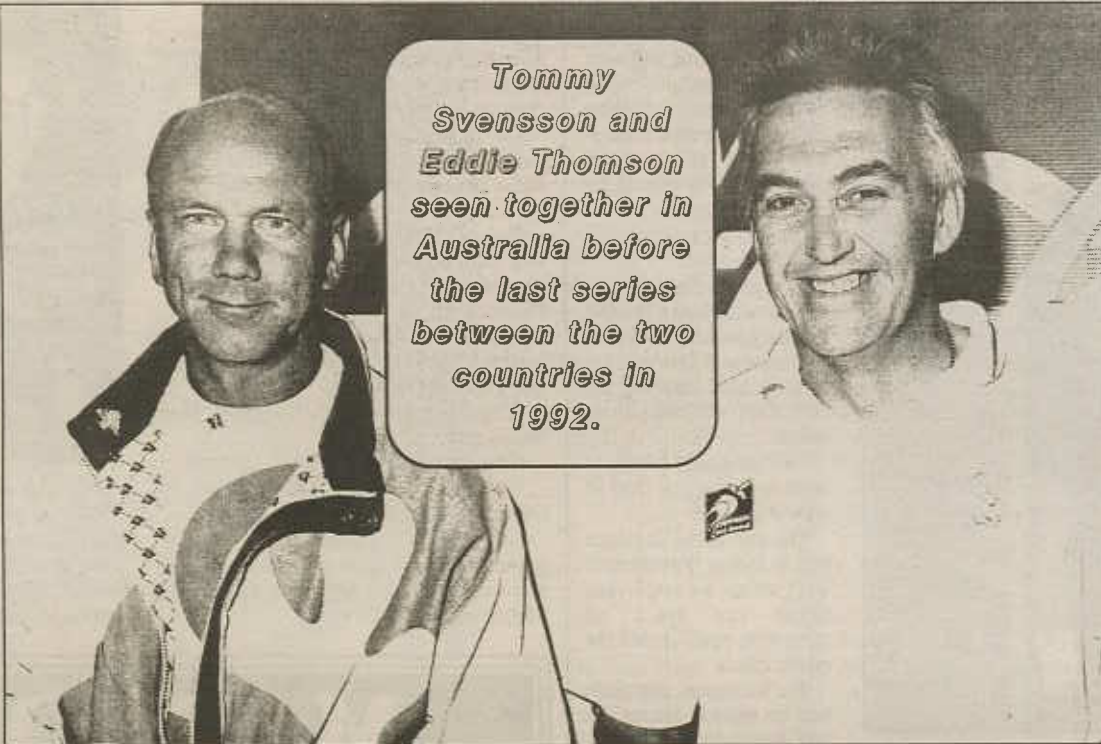
"And you well know who Sweden is and where they finished in the last World Cup at USA '94. Sweden was super and very popular with all the crowds in the States by playing some really top stuff.

"Well Sweden is almost here (Australia) now and with no less than seven of those players from USA '94."

Not only does Thomson know the Sweden players well having been in the USA himself two years ago for the World Cup as an observer and guest of FIFA, but also has previously done battle with Sweden's master coach, Tommy Svensson here in Australia, with Thomson coming out well on top.

"We've already played Sweden three times, well before the last World Cup, and even though we won two of the games and drew the third, I felt Australia was a bit lucky with both wins.

"Australia defeated Sweden 1-0 in Melbourne and again by the same score in Adelaide, with the Sydney



Tommy Svensson and Eddie Thomson seen together in Australia before the last series between the two countries in 1992.

match ending in a very tough scoreless draw.

"The Swedish club side Gothenburg, did very well last year in Europe and this touring squad here in Australia contains at least six players from that Club.

"Make no mistake, this Sweden squad is their the one preparing for the next World Cup in France."

Thomson then went on to add, "Sweden must start as odds on favourites, but believe me Australia will be ready to give them two very tough matches.

"I know Tommy (Svensson) really well and I can tell you he will be breaking his neck to beat us this time round. He's a very nice guy and doesn't talk much, but he is a real quiet achiever.

"They say 'nice guys win nothing', well I believe that is not true.

"Just look at what

Tommy has won and achieved with Sweden."

So seriously is Thomson treating these two matches that he has strengthened his squad by calling home four of Australia's overseas-based players. The squad enters camp in Brisbane today (Tuesday).

As announced by Soccer Australia last week, giant goalkeeper, Zeljko Kalac playing in England with Wolverhampton Wanderers, attacking flank midfielder, Robbie Slater of West Ham United and veteran striker, Graham Arnold at NAC Breda in Holland have all returned to join the home-based Socceroos.

Slater capped 15 times, last played for Australia against Argentina in the two World Cup qualifier in 1993.

Both Kalac and Arnold played for Australia as recently as last year in the series against the touring

Ghana side.

Arnold is especially keen to gain more caps to add to his existing tally of 46.

Last night, Thomson advised ABSW that he expects left midfielder speedster, Danny Tiatto, back from his trial period with Leeds United to join the Australian squad.

To make way for the four goalkeeper Frank Juric, defender Dominic Longo and strikers John Markovski and Warren Spink have been dropped from the squad.

Thomson intends to use both of his Olympic team flank-midfielders, Goran Lozanovski and Danny Tiatto, for Sunday's match.

At this stage Thomson has bracketed Paul Wade and Jason Polak for one of the three central midfield spots to link up with Slater and Sydney Olympic's Milan Blagojevic.

SHIRT NUMBERS

AUSTRALIA

1-Zeljko Kalac (Wolverhampton), 2-Jason Polak (Brisbane Strikers), 3-Tony Popovic (Sydney United), 4-Milan Ivanovic (Adelaide City), 5-Alex Tobin (Adelaide City), 6-Paul Wade (Canberra Cosmos), 7-Damian Mori (Adelaide City), 8-Milan Blagojevic (UTS Olympic), 9-Graham Arnold (NAC Breda), 10-Kevin Muscat (South Melbourne), 11-Robbie Slater (West Ham), 12-Joe Spiteri (Melbourne Knights), 13-Robert Hooker (West Adelaide), 14-Danny Tiatto (Melbourne Knights), 15-Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne), 16-Goran Lozanovski (Adelaide City), 17-Matthew Bingley (Marconi), 18-Jason Petkovic (Adelaide City).

SWEDEN

1-Thomas Ravelli (IFK Gothenburg), 2-Ronald Nilsson (Helsingborg), 3-Teddy Lucic (IFK Gothenburg), 4-Andreas Jacobsson (Helsingborg), 5-Christian Karlsson (Malmo), 6-Sebastian Henriksson ((Orgryte), 7-Stefan Landberg (IFK Gothenburg), 8-Hakan Mild (IFK Gothenburg), 9-Niclas Alexandersson (IFK Gothenburg), 10-Anders Andersson (Malmo), 11-Jesper Blomqvist (IFK Gothenburg), 12-Bengt Andersson (Orgryte), 13-Mikael Nilsson (IFK Gothenburg), 14-Magnus Erlingmark (IFK Gothenburg), 15-Magnus Svensson (Halmstad), 16-Peter Wibran (Helsingborg), 17-Andreas Andersson (IFK Gothenburg), 18-Mattias Jonsson (Helsingborg), 19-Martin Pringle (Helsingborg), 20-Dan Sahlin (Orebro).

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COACH SPEAKS

Marius Johan Ooft, the powerfully framed coach of the Japanese J-League side Jubilo Iwata, was full of action from the moment he flew into Sydney early last Sunday morning.

Within three hours of arriving at their Sydney base, the plush Novotel Brighton le Sands Resort, Ooft had the entire Jubilo squad on the pitch training at nearby St George Stadium.

This Jubilo Iwata squad includes World Cup mega-stars, Italian goal hero 'Toto' Schillaci, Brazil's World Cup winning skipper, Dunga, four current members of Japan's Olympic team, two current senior Japan internationals, three former Japan internationals, plus a Dutch player.

Despite his industrious schedule, Mr Ooft was more than willing to speak to ABSW with this exclusive interview.

The most amicable 49 year old former Dutch Youth International ace-central-striker started in staccato fashion by methodically rattling off "I have been head coach with Jubilo for almost three years.

"Prior to that, I was the national coach of Japan.

"Before I went over to Japan I was head coach at



Marius Ooft: Jubilo Iwata's well-travelled coach.

F.C. Utrecht back in my country Holland in the period 1988 to 92.

"When I was young I played for Feyenoord for 11 years starting off in 1965.

"I represented the Holland Youth team as a central striker in 1967 and 68.

"After my playing career

ended, I joined the Dutch F.A. as Director Of Coaching", explained Mr Ooft.

"I met Eddie a few years ago in Holland when he came over with the Australian Olympic Games squad to train and play matches prior to going to the Barcelona '92 Games.

Hans went on to tell us, "Japanese Soccer is always improving. The Japanese are eager, enthusiastic and work hard all the time.

"But there is some difficulty with their style as they find it hard to understand fully how to hit their fourth player."

What is Japan's future in World Soccer?

"I won the Championship of Asia with Japan in 1992 also the Asia-African Cup.

"Japanese Soccer still has to work hard. Nothing but hard work will bring them success.

"We are always hoping to learn something new from all our mistakes.

"In our three matches here in Sydney over the next week or so, we hope your teams can teach us something new," ended the master coach.

The J-Leaguers play three matches while in Sydney. The first against Marconi tonight (Tuesday) at Marconi Stadium starting at 7pm. The second match against St George Saints this Thursday Feb 22 at St George Stadium, also kicking off at 7pm.

Next Tuesday Jubilo Iwata plays their third and final game against current League leaders, Sydney Olympic at Leichhardt Oval.

TSEKENIS WANTED BY OVERSEAS CLUBS

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Peter Tsekenis (right), Sydney Olympic's outstanding central midfielder, has been approached by two clubs from the First Division in Greece over the past few weeks.

One of the Clubs, currently lying half way in the Greek competition has already gone ahead and offered Olympic \$300,000 for his services.

Tsekenis' form was closely monitored by overseas scouts in Adelaide during the Olympic qualifiers in the Five Nation Oceania Tournament.

"I'm going nowhere right now," the durable 23 year old midfielder very clearly stated last night to ABSW.

"I've only got two targets fixed in my head for this year.

"One is to win the League with Olympic.

"The other is to get to Atlanta for the '96 Games with Australia's Olympic squad.

"It's nice to be considered and rated by overseas clubs, but again as I've stated, I have no interest in going anywhere right now," Tsekenis clarified.



Suffering an ankle injury which kept him off the training track for the last two weeks, the Australian Olympic central midfielder came through with flying colours for his team last Saturday night in the spectacular clash against Marconi.

URUKALO OFF TO GUAM

Michael Urukalo, following his dust-up with the Fijian Football Association last December, flew out of Australia last Thursday night on a three week assignment to render valuable assistance to the national team of Guam.

Guam, with a population of about 130,000, is dominated by two large USA military installations, The island lies two hours flight south east of Tokyo.

The Guam F.A. has invited Urukalo to lecture 25 of their local

coaches as well as to train their national squad.

Just prior to flying out of Australia, Urukalo told us, "Guam take their Soccer seriously especially now that they will be hosting the 1999 Pacific Games. They want to start now to gear up for the big event.

"The Asian Football Association has drafted me in for this assignment," ended Urukalo.

Urukalo who towards the end of last year was in charge of Fiji's

Olympic squad, walked out when he clashed with Fijian F.A. officials after they denied him a special training camp in preparation for the Oceania Qualifiers in Adelaide.

Urukalo pleaded with the Fijians for this camp as he did not want to cop a hiding from Australia.

The Fijian F.A. refused Urukalo's request, stating such a training camp was not absolutely necessary, thus forcing Urukalo's resignation..

Subsequently Australia walloped Fiji 10-0 and 5-0 in Adelaide.

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World Cup stars in Sydney

Dunga & Schillaci speak to ABSW's John Economos

Brazil's World Cup winning skipper, Dunga, was stretched out with his left ankle still heavily strapped after having just finished his second training session at the St George Stadium when this exclusive interview took place.

The always serious looking, crew-cut Brazilian captain, started his senior playing career in Brazil with Internacional. He moved on to Vasco de Gama and then to Santos before a long-distant journey to Italy's Pisa. A stint at Fiorentina followed before moving yet again to Germany to link up with Stuttgart.

ABSW asked the World's currently most famous national captain: Have you finished playing for Brazil?

DUNGA

"No, not at all. In fact I hope to captain Brazil at the Atlanta Olympics. I'm only 32 years old. Why shouldn't I continue playing? I was prevented by laws from playing in the qualifiers but once Brazil qualifies I'm eligible to play at the Games."

What were your feelings after you captained Brazil to World Cup victory in USA '94?

"Something I will never forget. It was a most important part in my life."

Who were some of the outstanding players in that World Cup?

"There were many good players. Not just one. Baggio, Romario and of course Bebeto plus some others. Really too many to remember them all."

Why did Brazil win the World Cup.

"Brazil had two players covering every position. Good players at that."

Were you always a central midfielder?

"Yes, always throughout my career."

Who was the best coach you ever had?

"All of them taught me something different."

Was anyone of them the most influential on your career?

"No, not one of them. Only good players ever inspired me and there were a few. If you watch really good players they will always be able to teach you things. For example Zico, Falcao, Careca, Artilles, Ancellotti, Cerezo were just some of them."

Your plans after you retire from the playing arena?

"I want to become a manager in a first division of some country. You see I have many ideas of my own which I wish to implement. Soccer is a very simple game. Many things are said about how to play Soccer. But because the game is really very simple and requires simple training, it is easy. All you are required to find, is something new. Something different, but keeping it still simple."

The name is 'Toto' and six years later, still worshiped the world over by all Italians

For 'Toto' is none other than Salvatore Schillaci, arguably the world's most famous Sicilian, top scorer of Italia 90 with six goals.

Now in Sydney with J-League side Jubilo Iwata, 'Toto' was kind enough to spare us half an hour for an interview.

Born and raised in Messina, Sicily, this pocket-rocket goal-ace kicked off his career with his local town club before being snapped up by Italian giants Juventus.

From there he went to the famous Inter Milan before finally being sold two years ago to his current club in Japan where he signed a multi-million dollar contract.

What are 'Toto's' thoughts on the current Italian side?

"The actual Italian national squad is very young and thus relatively inexperienced. It is a typical Sacchi team and far too young to comment on for now."

How do you feel Italy will fare in the coming Euro Championships?

"I have been out of Italy the last two years and I cannot honestly make any predictions."

Over the years, it has been a rare feat for any Sicilian to make an Italian World Cup squad like you did in 1990. Why has this been so?

"I cannot explain to you this situation at all."

"One year before I was selected

SCHILLACI

for the Italian team I had a very good season with Juventus.

"I think that I was lucky enough to attract much media attention and from this I believe I was able to gain selection in the World Cup squad."

Scoring those wonderful six goals in the 1990 World Cup finals, what did they mean to you?

"Believe me I did not expect or predict before the Finals that I would get anywhere near scoring six."

"But after I did, I can tell you that I felt very, very satisfied with

my personal performance

"All six goals I will always remember them most fondly."

Who should today be coaching Italy?

"Sacchi without doubt. He is the best in Italy today."

Italy lost the last World Cup Final to Brazil in the USA. Did you feel Sacchi committed any mistakes in his team selection for that fatal Final?

"Yes, obviously he did. Can you be a little more specific?"

"Well Sacchi was always willing to make far too many changes."

"Playing Baggio when he was obviously not fully fit was a mistake I thought."



AUSTRALIA v SWEDEN

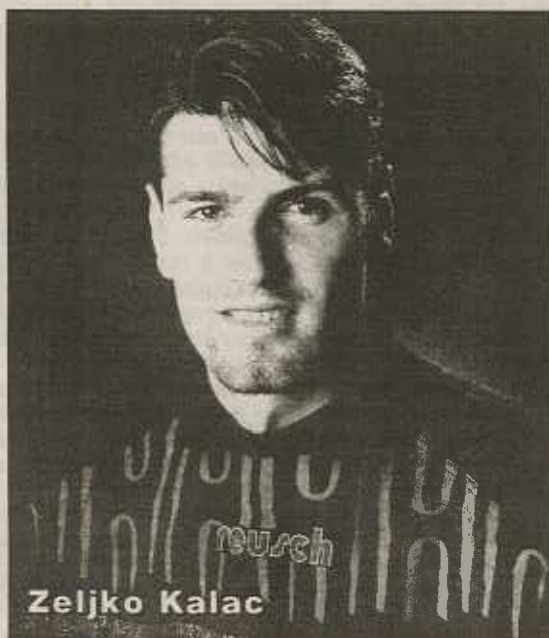


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Like watching soccer in a foreign land

Dear Sir,

I write regarding Henry Wizgier's article (ABSW Feb 6) concerning ethnics in soccer in light of the match I attended recently.

I have been a soccer fan for several years but have never attended games in this country. I have however, watched on SBS as the games have become faster and more entertaining year by year.

After seeing how entertaining the games have become I decided to start attending local games and my first was the "Local Derby" between Sydney Olympic and Sydney United.

The game was great to watch. Lots of excitement and plenty of action. The trouble was I felt like I was watching a Greek team in Croatia, not in Australia!

United's field has in several places the team's name painted as "Croatia Sydney". There were many fans wearing Croatian national jerseys and wearing Croatian scarves. A very large Croatian flag was waved by some of the crowd and most of the cheering was done in Croatian.

While I saw no Greek flags the Olympic fans were also cheering in Greek. As I said it felt just like being in Croatia watching a visiting Greek team.

I feel that if soccer is ever to be accepted by enough Australians for it to become a professional sport, and I for one would dearly love that to happen then it must be supported by Australians, not just those from a few ethnic backgrounds.

I am not suggesting that we forget who revived soccer in this country or the debt these teams owe to these ethnic communities. I am not suggesting that they change their team colours to get away from foreign national colours.

I am suggesting that the use of foreign flags, scarfs and other merchandise is discouraged, while at the same time the use of team flags, scarfs etc is encouraged.

My final suggestion, and one I feel must be done in order for the game to grow and to shake off the extremely limiting ethnic tag is the five teams, (Sydney United, Marconi Fairfield, Melbourne Knights, Adelaide City and South Melbourne) in the Ericsson Cup that have Croatian, Greek and Italian flags in their team badge must have them changed.

The teams may now have non political names but as long as national flags are part of their emblem they will remain teams that only have ties with their ethnic-based supporters.

If attending a soccer game makes you feel like you are watching two foreign teams play soccer in a foreign country, soccer will never attract the crowds it needs and deserves to become a professional league.

T. Fergus,
Alexandra. NSW.

Sydney odd one out

Dear Sir,

Here is a simple quiz-name the odd one out of the following cities. London, Rome, Munich, Madrid, Belgrade, Sydney, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires.

Yes, you're right, Munich is the odd one out, because all those other major-cities have more than one team in their National League.

Lets see, London has Arsenal, West Ham, QPR and then some, Rome has Roma and Lazio, Madrid has Real and Atletico, Belgrade has Red Star and Partizan, Sydney three teams, Sao Paulo have their own championship where half the teams make it to the National League (in Rio they do the same) and Buenos Aires has 15 teams in a championship of 20 + 10 out of 22 in second division.

Now I'll ask your "great columnist" not to compare Mr Hill's or Mr Wizgier's "Anglo-Saxon chief executives soccer league" with the rest of the football world, try the NBA or the NFL.

The division a team plays in (unlike any other sport) is decided by 22 players on the park in front of every one that cares to watch, not by a couple of business people behind closed doors, unless we have promotion and relegation decided on the field of play, we don't have a "real football" league, no matter how you dress it.

Pablo D. Blanco,
Ashcroft. NSW.

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



Due to the ever-increasing volume of Letters to the Editor, only correspondence of less than 400 words will be considered for publication.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

Thomson chasing wrong tactics

Dear Sir,

As the editor of this fine soccer newspaper please stand up and be counted.

The Australian Soccer people are sick of the rubbish that is being served up to them in the form of our Socceroos not being given the opportunity of being able to blend together and present to the public a brand of football that we all thought was going to be different, but no, we still play the same negative game.

Kick, chase and hope for the best.

How long is too long in the case of Eddie Thomson, he has had more chances then a game of Scratch-It's, yet he still perseveres with this type of game, it is time for him to go, and please ask Mr Hill to appoint an overseas coach preferably from Europe.

Look what is happening to the Strikers since Frank Farina chose to play with them. His overseas experience is starting to rub off on the players around him and they are starting to play the type of football that is appreciated by the paying public.

When the Australian Socceroos play anybody that is any good Mr Thomson resorts to bringing back



Eddie Thomson: Persevering with negative game.

players that are now playing on the Continent, this in its concept is not right as we have many a fine young player waiting for the chance to play for his country.

Australian Soccer appears to be made up of officials who are tightly knitted together, which appears to make them hard to replace, for the sake of getting bums on seats, start making some radical changes.

(First) — Start with the Australian Coach (Secondly) — Change the commentators, to listen to them is like listening to a leaky tap.

(Thirdly) — Telecasting through ABC Channel 2 would be of more advantage to Australian Soccer generally than pursuing this course through SBS.

A. Wright,
Graceville. Qld.

Thanks for reading column

Dear Sir,

First of all I would like to thank everyone out there for reading Croatian Corner especially those of Anglo-Saxon background.

I really appreciate the time you all take to read the less than half a page article on page 22.

However, I just can't comprehend how everyone reads it week in week out as if it's the only thing worth reading in ABSW.

Surely when something is titled "Croatian Corner" it's going to talk about Croatian soccer so why an Anglo-Saxon person even tries to read it is beyond me.

It's simple, if you don't like it don't read it. I personally never read the section on South American soccer or Micky Brock's article because it doesn't interest me.

But there are people out there who like those articles which then makes them relevant.

Secondly on the subject of club emblems and flags, well answer me this, how is it that the Australian flag has a British flag in the corner? So when Mr Hill said "If you are not Croatian, you don't belong to the Melbourne Knights

because they have a Croatian flag on their shirts."

This then means that I don't belong to Australia unless I'm British because of the Australian flag — catch 22 — we have to give respect to the British for finding this great country of ours but we also have to give respect to Greeks, Italians and Croats for giving us soccer and lest we forget the Maltese, Jews, Slovaks, Macedonians and Hungarians who fell by the way side. Emblems and flags don't need to change.

Last of all I'm not a journalist nor do I claim to be one, this article is a hobby for me. I don't do it for any other reason than to give Croatian background fans an insight on Croatia soccer players.

Not just Boban, Prosinecki and others similar that we all know about but young players such as Mornar, Jelacic and so on.

Croatian soccer is interesting it just needs to be read by the right people not anti-Croatsians.

John Viskovich,
Five Dock. NSW.

Editors note: Correspondence on 'Croatian Corner' is now closed.

Everyone wimps except small minority

Dear Sir,

In reply to C. Frearson's accusation that I attempt to degrade Australia's other forms of football.

Has he himself never read any degrading comments about soccer made by followers of Australia's other forms of football?

Has he never heard of soccer dismissed as 'a wog game'? (Which incidentally makes the British and Irish 'wogs').

Has he never heard it derided as a game 'played by wimps'? (Which makes everyone in the world 'wimps' except for Americans, Australians and Kiwis).

Did he not read how some female AFL 'footie fan' abused her privilege of being invited to deliver last year's Ron Barassi lecture, by degrading and ridiculing soccer?

As for a 'whingeing Pom'. I do hail from the country which gave the world every code of football.

However, in the UK 'soccer' does not put the boot into it's smaller 'football'-cousins.

You will never read derogatory remarks by soccer writers and fans aimed at rugby league or union.

Those few Britons who have heard of it, do not make fun of Aussie Rules.

It is this disgraceful attitude here which has provoked me into retaliatory response.

Perhaps if more Australian fans were to give as good as they get, then maybe these 'other football' followers will start to show some respect to the game from which their bastardised versions were created, by some frustrated English private school 'fag' called Ellis who could not master the subtle skills of Association football.

The fact that its subsequent followers bear more resemblance to the Simian branch of our evolutionary tree, makes their attempted derisions all the more pathetic.

However, if you really want to hear something degrading you should read my rhyme-story about rugby entitled "Grunt The Gorilla".

Henry Wizgier,
Forestville. NSW.

Once a Greek always a Greek

Dear Sir,

A message to all the people who talk about de-ethnicising the game of soccer in Australia. You will never, ever be able to do it.

The ethnic people in Australia consider themselves ethnic e.g. a Greek will always consider himself a Greek whether he lives in Australia or Africa.

South Melbourne will always be called Hellas by the Greek community just like the Knights will always be Croatia.

There will always be the chanting of foreign names at soccer, you can never change that, and that is why SMH is on the players shirts and written on the seats of the grandstand at Lakeside Oval.

Even in internationals I, personally, will support Greece even if they played against Australia, just like the majority of Greeks would.

That is why more people wear Greek and Italian national tops than Australian tops because they consider themselves ethnic.

The Greek community also support Australia but if it came down to Greece v Australia in a World Cup final you would have the majority of them down at Lonsdale St wearing Greek memorabilia.

One last comment before I sign off, to P. Russo of SA, yes my father has been to Europe and was actually born there.

South Melbourne Hellas for the championship!

Nicholas Metallinos,
Templestowe. Vic.

Orlando Magic just as ethnic as Hajduk Split

Dear Sir,
I think the ethnic issue in Aussie soccer has to be looked at more closely.

I can hear people saying: "How can we solve the 'ethnic' problem".

Well why is 'ethnic' a problem. Or is it an excuse for the average 'John' or 'Macka', to say that 'Wogball' has too many wogs in it, therefore they won't go and watch it.

OK I admit soccer to work in a big way in this country, to make it more appealing to the general public we'll have to slowly de ethnicise our major soccer clubs.

Firstly let's define what is 'ethnic'.
To many it is something that comes from another country other than Australia.

Well there is enough evidence suggesting that this isn't so. Take basketball in this country, you're going to see more kids wearing ethnic club shirts, i.e. Orlando Magic (USA) than say South East Melbourne Magic (Australia).

Orlando-USA, sounds ethnic to me. Take soccer sportswear for example, your going to see more youngsters wearing Manchester United jerseys than say, Sydney United jerseys, Manchester-England, sounds ethnic to me.

Now lets say I was to walk around in my Hajduk Split jersey, I would be classified by some as a 'wog', well that's fair enough.

OK let's now say I walk down the street in my Melbourne Knights shirt, I'll bet you that I'll still be classified as a 'wog', but wait Melbourne-Australia-non-ethnic. Bloody confusing don't you think?

I think there still needs to be thought on what is ethnic in this country, and if ethnic is everything except English, Scottish or Irish well de-ethnicizing 'ain't bloody gonna work'.

And just to cap off this letter, there seems to be a lot of letters written on how irrelevant the 'Croatian Corner' is.

A Croatia Corner is as relevant, if not more so, than a British or an Italian section in this paper.

For those non-pretenders that actually follow Australian soccer, you know yourselves how many excellent soccer players of Croatian descent have been produced in this country, and will still continue to be produced.

These youngsters started to play soccer under the influence of their fathers who either played soccer in Croatia or madly followed a Croatian soccer club.

These kids grow up wanting to play like Boban, Prosinecki and Suker just as the kids of English descent want to play like Lineker or Gascoigne, as the Italians with Baggio and so on.

The "Croatian Corner" is seen by the Australian-Croatian youngsters as a motivational tool to excel in soccer, and let us hope it produces more like Viduka, Bosnich or Krncevic in the future.

Joseph Hovanjec, Endeavour Hills, Vic.

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



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Due to the ever-increasing volume of Letters to the Editor, only correspondence of less than 400 words will be considered for publication.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

Player drain worse than here

Dear Sir,
Every Tuesday when I read ABSW I'm shocked by the same people's attitudes, on the column "Croatian Corner".

Every man and his dog have had a go, and now it's my turn.

1. Croatia is a very small country of four million people with an extraordinary amount of talented players at the moment. And if you think Australia's league is suffering because of players going overseas, Croatia's domestic league is having a player drain of larger proportions.

2. With the "Croatian Corner" articles, we are talking about stories that appear on pages 20 to 25, where its lucky to receive a 1/4 or 1/2 page.

3. Accusation's of racism. On what basis. Author once mentioned that Croatian players are better than Greek players. That is his opinion.

Australia still has freedom of speech, press etc, where opinions can be stated.

For the last 2 to 3 weeks I have been reading that the Oceania

Olympic tournament was a waste of time because Australian players are far superior to the rest of Oceania. (Racist overtones? Not just fact of opinion.)

4. No relevance to mainstream Australian Football. Tell me, what relevance does the Italian Serie A and B, South American section, news from around the globe, the Bosman Case, etc have to Aussie Football. None, but all these stories were extensively covered by ABSW, but yet I have read no complaints by readers of ABSW.

5. If we have a "Croatian Corner" why not have a "Greek

Corner", "Albanian Avenue" or a Swiss revue. Well why not? Football is a global sport, and that's the beauty of the game, if you think these articles would be boring, I have simple solution. Turn the page, or don't read the article. To the editor of the ABSW I congratulate you for publishing these articles because football news from Croatia is scarce, and any bit of information is appreciated.

So don't give in to these chauvinistic, small minded, racist, isolationist "Soccer fans."

Joe Brkic,
Greenacre, NSW.

IN SYMPATHY

Dear Sir,
I would kindly ask you to convey my deep felt sympathy to Mr B. Culina after his team's recent defeat at the hands of UTS Olympic.

Following the previous loss in similar circumstances Mr Culina stated that he would train his players to play 100 minutes of football in order to avoid last minute goals against them. Obviously the Sydney United players are slow learners as history repeated itself.

Who can we blame this time Mr Culina? Not Eddie Thomson again surely.

Ron Novello, Little Bay, NSW.

High standard of soccer with ASF assistance

Dear Sir,
Being part of a growing multicultural society in this country I would like to say how disgusting I find the amount of racism reflected in sporting magazines towards some soccer societies in Australia.

People from other countries surely have the right in a democratic society of which Australia is one, to free speech, sporting activities and cultural activities.

I say growing multiculturalism because Australia is a young country and it needs the immigration policies to continue to build this great country into an even greater one.

Therefore whichever immigration policies exist, foreign people will have certain ties with their place of origin, whether it be related to family, friends, business, trade or sporting events.

With the many fruits multicultural society has brought to this country for Australians to enjoy — and in turn Australia has become home for many refugees and professional people — why do we have people like C Freason of Gympie NSW expressing racist views in

a sporting magazine such as ABSW?

His "Head in the Sand" type comments in volume 17 of ABSW dated February 6, 1996 regarding Croatian Corner as being one of the most biased pieces of journalism that he has read and in its place why don't we publish Mongolian Corner because it has as much relevance to mainstream Australian soccer supporters as Croatian Corner.

The question I would like to ask Mr Freason — in what way is Croatian Corner racist and biased, compared to that of other journalism in ABSW, such as Italy's Serie A and B, news from around the world, South American, Dutch and the four pages of UK Soccer.

The Australian Croatian community has produced a high standard of soccer in Australia with the assistance of the ASF. Surely the community deserves more than some of the articles that have been published against them in recent editions.

With some of our great Australian players like Mark Bosnich, Ned Zelic,

Mark Viduka, Robbie Slater etc, playing with glamour clubs in Europe, I would like to thank John Viskovich of Croatian Corner for his fine journalism and current update of Australian players abroad.

Also with reference to the article "Chequered Hooligan History" in the same ABSW Vol 17, I find it disturbing and hard to comprehend, the hatred and racism written by English author Simon Inglis towards the Croatian nation in a sporting magazine by saying that Croatian children were playing soccer with severed Serbian heads.

Surely a world governing body such as FIFA should eliminate this type of racist propaganda just as they did with the blood thirsty English hooliganism that left so many people dead in European Football.

Finally, I would just like to say it's only one form of Football in this country so why can't people accept it, why do people have to slur it as some sort of racist game.

F Bradica,
Nelson Bay, NSW.

Better to change in gradual fashion

Dear Sir,

There have been some letters criticising other people's letters. This makes for interesting reading.

In my opinion all of us can learn from these criticisms. Henry Wiggler cops some flak, Croats and Greeks are having a feud and the Croatian Corner.

I think that if the arguments are all in good faith, that they pertain to footballing issues, then these should be encouraged. Why?

Because all the underlying issues pertaining to soccer come to the surface and it would be good if the soccer administrators read these letters and start taking some note.

In my opinion there are lots of good suggestions and issues with the common purpose of improving football overall in this country.

One of the most common issues you must agree would go under the heading: "Should there be ethnic control of the game?"

I agree with Henry's comment, in that ethnic here is often associated with only a few foreign cultures and does not represent any of the other 200 groups.

Okay let's then assume that to most of our readers ethnic is synonymous with Croatian, Italian and Greek.

My view is that if we exclude these people on a short term basis this may well turn out to be a disastrous move. When, in management, you want "change" it is better to do this in a gradual fashion. Or, start off a club with no specific affiliation other than demographic e.g. representing a city or region.

I wonder what would happen if in the next 10 years or so the above ethnic supported clubs still exist and their children, probably Aussie born, are in charge?

Would that automatically mean a leaning towards a mainstream Aussie population and therefore attract other crowds and more?

Or will it still be the same old crowds of 3,500 or 4,000 people? This, I think will be the key to the matter. We have to attract more people to gain respectability within the general Aussie population.

If it is still basically one ethnic supported club then it is also their management's responsibility to develop strategies where this goal is going to be reached, to attract 10,000 people at least.

As it is, just to ascertain that I am not "anti-ethnic," I go and see all three clubs and I don't care if the president is called Stefanovic, Andretti or Papadopoulos.

My friend who is Anglo-Australian has never mentioned the "ethnic factor" as a reason for not going but will evaluate the quality of the game. And that is the only factor that one should think of.

In terms of the Croatian Corner there are some people who would like to see it go.

Why? There is stuff in there that should concern all real football lovers. It tells us about up and coming stars, moves of great players from Croatia (who cares where they come from if you love the game?), such as Boksic etc. I think it is informative and not political.

As a real football enthusiast we should know what happens outside this world as it will increase our love for the game.

I am not Croatian but I still read it!

Gerry van Duuren,
UWS, Westmead.

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Silic departs for Singapore

Champion Melbourne Knights' hopes of defending its crown are fast diminishing after midfielder Mark Silic last week joined the exodus of top players from the club.

Silic will play with Singapore club Tiong Bahru on a loan deal until December.

His departure follows the loss of big name players Mark Viduka and Steve Horvat to Croatian clubs.



Danny Tiatto is also poised to leave the club

but the dashing winger is finding it difficult to adjust to the bitter cold in his three-week trial with English Premier League club Leeds United.

Tiatto telephoned Knights general manager Mirko Cugura last week and told him that even snow didn't stop team training.

"We warned him but he didn't expect it to be that bad," said Cugura.



Mark Silic: On-loan until December in the Island state.

Auckland drop bid

Soccer Auckland has dropped its bid to win a place in the Australia's Ericsson Cup.

A planned meeting with Soccer New Zealand councillors last Tuesday to explain its reasons for seeking inclusion across the Tasman was cancelled at the eleventh hour.

Soccer Auckland chairman Bill Anderson said last week his association had withdrawn its application for a place in the 1996-97 league. He said that the Auckland position had been undermined.

League clubs who had previously publicly given their support had now withdrawn the

backing, he said.

"Soccer Auckland are convinced that a team playing in the Australian league would dramatically advance the sport in New Zealand," Anderson said.

"We appreciate the support given by associations outside Auckland who agreed with a call for a special general meeting of Soccer New Zealand to have the matter fully discussed.

"That encouragement from players, coaches and supporters emphasised the need for a higher league."

Stowell rates squad as best

BY GLENN DAVIS

Brisbane Strikers' long injury list hasn't diminished the side's challenge to finish at the top of the ladder.

Coach Bruce Stowell has become frustrated with a rash of injuries this season, yet the club is sitting in its highest position ever on the Ericsson Cup ladder.

"At the start of the season we were aiming at around sixth but now we've readjusted our sights and can

legitimately aim at the one or two spot," Stowell said.

"The aim is to keep this going in the hope that in the next two or three weeks we can have a couple of guys back which will put pressure on others to perform which in turn lifts intensity."

Strikers' experienced midfielder Danny Wright was the latest player on the injury list with a groin strain in last week's 2-1 win over Canberra.

He joined regulars Glenn



Gwynne (foot), Steve Jackson (hip), Sean Cranney (groin) and Mark Battistin (ankle).

Stowell believes the eventual return of his injured players will jolt any

complacency which may be creeping into the side.

Stowell said disappointing finishes to the last two seasons when a finals place was up for grabs had taught the Strikers some lessons.

"We've been in a similar position, although not quite as highly placed, when we've been edging the six and backed off at the end," he said.

"But I feel we are in a better position in many ways this time. I've always said this is the best 19 I've ever

had which is the biggest difference.

"The only problem at this stage is I'd like to get some players back. It's annoying because I just can't get people back on the park."

On a brighter note Stowell is confident Socceroo Sean Cranney could make his injury comeback in about three weeks.

Cranney originally was expected to be sidelined for 12 weeks following groin surgery but has cut his time by a quarter.

Spink continues his recovery



Warren Spink: Clash of heads against Japan caused him to be unconscious for nine minutes.

BY JUSTIN BRASIER
OF AAP

Socceroo striker Warren Spink missed last weekend's round of national league matches after being knocked out during the Socceroos 3-0 win over Japan in Melbourne on Wednesday night.

Doctors ordered Spink to rest for 48 hours, giving Morwell Falcons coach Harry Bingham no choice but to leave him out of Saturday night's match against Sydney United in Morwell.

Spink was unconscious for nine minutes and spent five hours in hospital after a clash of heads with Japanese defender Norio Omura in the 26th minute



at Lakeside Stadium.

Bingham said Spink was recovering well but was resting at his Melbourne home and being closely monitored by his wife.

Spink had to stay awake for 12 hours after the collision as there was concern he might have slipped back into

unconsciousness.

"It definitely was a concern but we believe he is over the worst of it," Bingham told AAP.

Spink's injury was a cruel blow as the 29-year-old striker had shown a lot of tenacity to come back from an ankle injury, said Bingham.

"It was a sickening crunch and I just feel sorry for Warren. He's a great professional and a player that others can draw inspiration from."

Fijian under-23 captain Esala Masi would have been an obvious replacement for Spink but that country's soccer authorities continue to hold up the transfer of the striker to the Latrobe Valley.

Foot injury a tough break for James

BY JAI McDERMOTT

Newcastle dynamic young striker Harry James could miss the remainder of the Ericsson Cup season after breaking his foot in a trial match.

With the Breakers round 19 clash against Adelaide City postponed, Kosmina's side played local club Highfields in a friendly.

It was in this game that James tragically aggravated the foot injury which plagued him at the start of the season.

"I just fell awkwardly on my bad foot while controlling a ball. I had a stress fracture to start with and now it's broken.

To be honest I probably came back too early in the first place but you have to grab your opportunity when it comes along."

The injury is a tough break for both James and the Breakers, as he has been a key figure in the recent success of the Newcastle side.

"It's a big disappointment not just because I've found some good form but because as a side we are starting to

find our feet. I feel like I've let everyone down a bit by rushing back."

James now faces an agonising lay-off of six to eight weeks. It will be a frustrating time for the 20 year old whose mid-season form saw him become Kosmina's first choice striker even ahead of brilliant 18 year old Clayton Zane.

"It'll be pretty hard watching from the sidelines but I'll be doing everything I can to get back. I'll take the time to do some upper-body work and I should be able to get on a bike and even swim in two to three weeks, depending on how well my foot heals."



Harry Jones: Broken foot puts him out for weeks.

James' injury has left Kosmina with a big hole to fill in the Breakers front line. he has a number of options although it will be difficult for anyone to come straight in to partner Jason Bennett.

Youngster Clayton Zane was sent off whilst playing for the youth team last weekend whilst club captain David Lowe has not started in the firsts since mid December.

The recent injury to James completed an unfortunate two weeks for the youngster. Having just gained entrance to PE teaching at Newcastle University, James failed to return his acceptance forms on time and so is at risk of missing out.

"I feel pretty stupid really. I've wanted to get into this course so badly and I forget to send my forms back! Hopefully I will still be able to get in but I will just have to wait and see," James said.

Newcastle University Soccer Club was elated with the news of who they have recruited for the coming season.

The two are Breakers first team coach John Kosmina and his assistant Joe Senkalski.

Uni coach Steve Orford, a long time friend of Senkalski, said that "you could not find two better qualified or more experienced players in Australia than John and Joe, and their contribution to the club in the forthcoming season will be invaluable."

The inclusion of Kosmina and Senkalski is a coup for Newcastle Uni both in terms of football and publicity. It is also further evidence of the strengthening links between the Breakers and the University.

The Breaker squad has had the benefit of using the University gym and the healthy relationship is an indication of the positive attitude of the new Breakers regime.

Newcastle is renowned as a loyal supporter of its sporting teams and the Breakers approachability and openness with the community has done wonders to repay the local fans.

WOLLONGONG

Japan match a financial success



BY PHIL MURPHY

Soccer Australia backed a winner when they decided to stage the first international between Australia and Japan at Brandon Park.

It was the first ever full international played in Wollongong and attracted 8300 supporters.

As well as being a big sporting event for the city, it was a bonanza for Wolves.

The club, in co-operation with a local organising committee, operated all the food and drink outlets and are reported to have made about \$25,000 from the venture.

Wollongong Showground Trust played their part by having the Brandon Park ground in top shape.

The Wollongong playing surface has been criticised this season but the Trust worked hard to get it in good shape for the international.

After such a successful venture, Soccer Australia should allocate more games to Wollongong.

Wolves chairman Brian Hastings told ABSW he was sure international matches would be popular in the city.

"We were really pleased with the turnout," Hastings said.

"Particularly as the weather didn't look too promising late in the afternoon.

"Hopefully more of these games will be played at Brandon Park.

"Obviously we don't expect to get the major countries, but we are more than capable of putting on a good show for teams such as Japan."

Ironically, having the international at Brandon Park could have caused major problems for the Wolves.

Before the big game, new individual seats were installed in the dressing rooms.

The old benches were ripped out and one of them was attached to the brick wall separating the dressing room and shower area.

At training on Thursday night, four players were sitting on the bench when the wall collapsed, injuring two of the players.

One received treatment at Wollongong Hospital and the others were extremely lucky.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos is hoping to celebrate his first league victory on Friday night.

His struggling team are up against Newcastle at Brandon Park.

Wollongong managed to beat Newcastle 2-1 at Breakers Stadium earlier in the season when Berti Mariani was in charge.

Theodorakopoulos believes his team have played well against some very tough opposition in recent weeks.

"The signs have been there that we can turn the corner," the coach said.

"No disrespect to Newcastle, but they are with us at the bottom and we have the home ground advantage.

"Some of my players have come a long way in a short time and the new faces in the side have had time to settle in.

"We have played some very good football against the likes of Marconi and West Adelaide and scored first in both those games."

Martin Bourke is nearing the veteran stage but still doing a very good job for the Wolves.

Bourke previously played in the national league for Blacktown and Wollongong Macedonia and has a good record for reliability.

These days, he is filling a marking role for coach Nick Theodorakopoulos and the coach could not be happier.

An electrician, Bourke is having his fifth season with the Wolves and was outstanding against West Adelaide.

It was no coincidence that the West Adelaide player Bourke was marking had to be replaced early in the second half.

ADELAIDE CITY

Innovative marketer's death big loss for club

BY CHRIS LINES

Adelaide City and Australian soccer lost one of its most innovative and creative minds with the sudden death of club marketing manager David Jenkins this week.

Jenkins was considered ahead of his time in his promotion of Australian soccer and his thoroughness and ability to capture the imagination of not only soccer fans but the non-soccer media was envied by all other clubs.

Jenkins was the man behind City's decision to mount pre-season tours of Asian nations including Vietnam and China, and the broadening of the appeal of Adelaide City in their home town.

Jenkins also completed the most thorough study of a soccer club's supporter profile and marketing possibilities in the history of the Australian game.

However it was his zany schemes that captured the imagination, including plans to put an Adelaide City player in space, and most recently his plans to dig up the centre spot at

Hindmarsh Stadium to cut it up and sell it in celebration of Damian Mori's world record fastest goal earlier in the season.

Adelaide City president Fred Lenzi said he was shocked by Jenkins sudden death from a heart attack and said he will be sorely missed at City.

"David has been mentioned for his innovative ideas, he always looked to be the first in doing things so he was ahead of his time and was looked to by everybody at City," Lenzi said.

"It was a big shock to me, I saw him on the Friday at the Vice-President's lunch and he looked quite well and I was shocked to hear of his death."

"David had a lot of time for everybody, he was a quiet man but he always listened and that's how he got his ideas."

"No other club in Australia ever had any one who could look ahead like David did," Lenzi said.

Jenkins was associated with Adelaide City in various capacities for more than 10 years and will be honoured by the club.

At Adelaide City's next



Adelaide City president Fred Lenzi: Said Jenkins was ahead of his time.

home game, the players will wear black arm-band. A minute's silence will be followed by a eulogy from City's vice-president.

Lenzi said City were also investigating the possibility of contributing to his family once the complex legal settlement surrounding his

estate was resolved.

Lenzi said Jenkins' foresight in creating a marketing committee at City in recent times would make the difficult task of replacing him a little easier, but said Jenkins ingenuity and contacts in the media could never be replaced.

WEST ADELAIDE

Blanco annoints Adrian Santrac as successor

BY CHRIS LINES

Current coach Raul Blanco has nominated his assistant, Adrian Santrac, as the man to replace him when he leaves the Sharks at the end of the season.

Blanco has been appointed full-time coach of the Olyroos leading up to the games in Sydney in the year 2000.

Blanco will continue to juggle his responsibilities with the Olyroos and the Sharks for the remainder of the current National League season before taking up the position.

Blanco said the pride and honour he felt when appointed as Olyroo coach was tempered by a sadness at the knowledge it would end his four-year association with West.

"Obviously the initial reaction was how proud and honoured I felt but at the same time there was a lot of sadness



that I had to say goodbye to the club because they have been wonderful to me," Blanco said.

Blanco warned other National League clubs that the Sharks were still a real threat to win the National League and said his approaching absence will add to the desire for such a victory.

"Now I know that I have to say goodbye, we hope to have a fantastic ending to my time here," Blanco said.

While the Sharks still have their eye on the ultimate prize in 1995/96, Blanco said it was only a matter of time

before West mark their continued improvement with a trophy.

"We have one of the youngest squads in the league and good players coming through our junior ranks and the future looks fantastic for many years to come," Blanco said.

"The only thing missing is a championship but that will come because the club is on its way and it is very strong in every department."

"Adrian Santrac will get the job, that is my hope and my advice to the board."

"He is a capable young coach and he will do well with what was started with the players that we have," he said.

Blanco said the main change since he began at West was the degree of stability in administration and coaching that was sorely missing in the sometimes spectacular but inconsistent past.



Adrian Santrac: Considered a capable coach by Blanco.

ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS



Cosmos comeback flattens Breakers

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 5 CANBERRA COSMOS 5

BY JAI McDERMOTT

Mick Lyon's Canberra Cosmos snatched a precious Ericsson Cup point with one of the most freakish comebacks ever seen in Australian soccer.

In a quite remarkable match the Cosmos came back from 4-0 down to draw 5-5 with Newcastle at Breakers Stadium last Friday night.

The Breakers made a magnificent start to the Round 20 clash when midfielder Scott Thomas opened the scoring in the 11th minute.

A sweeping move down the right flank saw Troy Halpin drive a menacing cross to pick up the run of Thomas at the far post.

SCORERS:

Newcastle: Thomas (11), Halpin (34, 45, 63), Koch (50 o.g.)
Canberra: Wade (53, 59), Musitano (70), Kelly (80), Dunn (85)

YELLOW CARDS:

Newcastle: Ritchie (53)
Canberra: Dunn (20), Dee (71), Castro (76)

POY: 3-Halpin

(Newcastle),
2-Castro (Canberra),
1-Thomas (Newcastle)

CROWD: 2,817

REFEREE: M. Shields

Cosmos keeper's Steve Mautone parried the first time volley from Thomas but the 21-year-old midfielder pounced on the rebound to score.

Newcastle played an attractive brand of football throughout the first half. They looked decidedly fresh after having their round 19 clash with Adelaide City postponed, and went further ahead in the 34th minute

when Halpin weaved a magical spell to score.

Halpin was the man of an amazing match and the first of his three goals stamped his class on proceedings.

After running the ball through midfield from his position on the right flank, Halpin played a deft one-two with Thomas on the edge of a crowded penalty area.

Thomas' return pass put Halpin in on goal and his calm finish from a narrow angle gave Mautone no chance.

Ralph Maier released David Lowe down the left. Lowe, in his first Ericsson Cup start since December, who drove a dangerous ball across Mautone's goal.

Halpin stretched out on the back post and despite the efforts of the Cosmos defence squeezed the ball inside the near post to make the half time score 3-0.

If Cosmos looked beaten at the break John Koch's own goal in the 50th minute appeared to seal their fate. A

Troy Halpin cross drifted harmlessly into the area but it skidded off the head of the unfortunate Koch and beat a stranded Mautone.

Three minutes later Paul Wade scored with a powerful header to make it 4-1, and pulled another goal back in the 59th minute. Following a foul on industrious youngster Alex Castro, Michael Musitano blasted his free kick onto the Newcastle crossbar.

Wade reacted the quickest in a crowded Breakers penalty area and his powerful volley from six metres left Craig Carter stranded. After a decidedly quiet first half the Cosmos captain's double strike within six minutes began an amazing turnaround.

Despite the Cosmos revival Halpin completed his hat-trick in the 63rd minute to make it 5-2. The 22-year-old sprung the off side trap when a David Lowe pass put him in on goal.

Cosmos reduced the



Troy Halpin: Most influential player for the Breakers and scorer of a hat-trick.

deficit to two goals again when Musitano scored in the 70th minute. A venomous Paul Dee cross found the thundering Musitano unmarked header squeezed into the top corner of

Carter's back post.

Gone was the composure which had been a feature of the Breakers first half performance, with the home side surrendering too much ground to the gallant visitors.

Slack marking was again to blame when Norman Kelly made it 5-4 in the 80th minute. The Cosmos again penetrated Newcastle down the right and Castro's precise cross saw Kelly, the smallest man on the field, head home unchallenged with 10 minutes to go.

With five minutes remaining the Breakers completed their version of football suicide, when the persistent Jason Dunn stabbed home the equaliser through a crowded area.

The hanging heads of Newcastle signalled the realisation of an horrific collapse, contrasted by the celebrations of the Cosmos, rejoicing after the most courageous comeback in recent memory.

A philosophical Mick Lyons reflected on his side's first half, he claimed that while Canberra played the first stanza "without passion", their "show of character" to come back from the jaws of defeat was quite admirable.

He praised the "great finishing" from both sides and expressed hopes that the match would be remembered for its "Positive points rather than defensive errors."

A devastated John Kosmina commented briefly on the Breakers "diabolical second half." He claimed that "they surrendered too much ground despite the half-time warnings against complacency."

NEWCASTLE: Carter, Hickman, Maier, Lowe, Halpin, Moore, Bennett, Thomas, Pryce, Stewart, Ritchie.

CANBERRA: Mautone, Dee, Dunn (Watson 90), Wade, Kelly, Perinovic, Popovich, Castro, Koch, Musitano, Mazis.

Bug-ridden Knights surrender to Zebras

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0 ADELAIDE CITY 1

BY DWYGH TUFFNELL

Adelaide City survived a scary second half to go away with three much needed points at Somers Street on Sunday.

Brad Hassell grabbed the only goal of the game in the 38th minute steering in Goran Lozanovski's cross.

City skipper Alex Tobin had a last minute penalty saved by Frank Juric after the goalkeeper had brought down Craig Foster on his way to a certain goal.

Juric however was dealt with very leniently by referee Eddie Lennie and only shown a yellow card.

The Knights, with all bar one of their players struck down by a mystery bug, came back strong in the second period when they twice hit the bar and had two goalbound efforts cleared off the line.

The bug had taken its toll on players and was obviously affecting them in the latter stages of the game.

Joe Spiteri was forced out of the game with tonsillitis and Joe Bacak's injury woes continued when he limped off the park in the 22nd minute with an ankle complaint.

A goal down, the Knights peppered the Zebras goal for the entire second half and were unlucky not to be rewarded for their efforts.

SCORER: Adelaide:

Hassell (38)

YELLOW CARDS:

Knights: J Markovski (64), Juric (89)
Adelaide: Armour (26), Lozanovski (39)

POY: 3-Simunic (Knights), 2-Ivanovic (Adelaide), 1-Pondeljak (Knights)

CROWD: 4,130

REFEREE: E. Lennie

Hassell nearly put one into his own net in the 54th minute when he misguided Tommy Pondeljak's corner but was relieved to see John Gibson clear it to safety.



Bradley Hassell: Put away his eighth goal for the season.

It was at set pieces where the Knights were at their most dangerous and it was from another corner when Ante Kovacevic headed against the bar.

The rebound fell to David Cervinski but his header was knocked away by Lozanovski.

"We were expecting a tough game and we got one. You never see pretty football in these games" said City coach John Perin afterwards.

"There was virtually six points at stake today, we're level pegging with them as far as points go so it was just as important for us to win as it was for them.

Perin admits to having a problem with having such a small squad to work with.

"We have only basically twelve players in the squad and when you compare us to the top three Marconi, UTS Olympic and Brisbane Strikers they all have experienced squads and we have only Ivanovic, Tobin and Mori."

Knights coach Ian Dobson talked about the problems he expects to have in midfield with the departure of Mark Silic to Singapore.

"We've lost the whole of midfield from the championship team. Silic, Danny Tiatto and Kresimir Marusic and you can't expect to replace those players overnight."

KNIGHTS: Juric, Buljubasic (B. Bacak 84), DeAmicis, Cervinski, Z. Markovski, Simunic, Lapsansky (Natevski 72), Vojtek, Kovacevic, J. Markovski, J. Bacak (Pondeljak 22).

ADELAIDE: Petkovic, Yates, Ivanovic, Tobin, Mori, Hassell, Gibson, Lozanovski, Armour, Mennillo, Foster.

Depleted United gain vital point at Morwell

MORWELL FALCONS 0 SYDNEY UNITED 0

BY CON STAVROS

Sydney United's chase for top spot received another setback on the weekend after they were held to a scoreless draw by Morwell Falcons.

Fielding an understrength team, United started poorly and despite a much improved second half, lacked the imagination to break the Morwell defence, despite hitting the crossbar in the closing minutes.

Branko Culina was forced to make a number of changes to his side because of injuries and suspensions, but voluntarily made the most surprising move by dropping goalkeeper John Perosh and replacing him with Andrew Crews for his first team debut.

"Perosh has been disappointing for us a number of times and sometimes you have to make these hard decisions," said Culina.

Lacking Jim Patikas, Ante Moric, Robert Enes, Robert Markovac and Paul Bilokapic, United looked especially fragile in midfield and were forced to backpedal for most of the first half.

Morwell however still had difficulty penetrating the tough United defence, choosing to test former

POY: 3-Genc (United), 2-Tapai (Morwell), 1-Kourtis (Morwell)
CROWD: 2,693
REFEREE: G. Connolly

Blacktown City 'keeper Crews with long range shots.

The Falcons forced Crews into his first testing effort on the half-hour with a scorching shot from Carlo Talladira, with earlier shots by Ernie Tapai, Michael Reda and Brian Bothwell all off target.

Falcons central defender Claudio Canosa had little trouble with Manis Lamond early on and chose to venture forward on several occasions to provide support. Canosa came close to scoring in the 16th minute when a

cross from Tapai just evaded his outstretched leg as it flashed dangerously across goal.

United looked a totally different side in the second half after a blasting by Culina at the break; managing to look more threatening in the first two minutes of the half than they had in the previous forty-five.

Lamond finally found some spark and started to have an influence on the game, shooting just wide with an excellent first-time left-foot strike just minutes after the restart. Never a favourite of Culina however, Lamond was substituted in the 80th minute.

A terrific blast by Ante Milicic that rattled the Morwell crossbar in the 87th minute was the closest the match came to a goal, with the shot deserving better luck falling away from a well performed Aytac Genc who was closing in on the rebound.

The point keeps Morwell alive for a shot at the finals both mathematically and in spirit. Demoralised by the thrashings of recent times, the Falcons, despite the depleted opposition, managed to look like their former speedy and skilful selves at times and may just yet figure in the playoffs.

MORWELL: Kourtis, Marcina, Canosa, Sevin, Waddell, Bothwell, Talladira, Villani, Douglas, Reda (Stergiopoulos 80), Tapai.

SYDNEY UNITED: Crews, Trajkovski (Gibson 67), Kupresak, Popovic, Babic, Genc, Milicic, Rudan, Zdrilic, Babic, Lamond (Ascliner 80).



Andrew Crews: Helped United gain a draw.



ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

Olympic back in lead again

UTS OLYMPIC 3 MARCONI FAIRFIELD 1

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

A ruthless display of Amobile, almost non-stop attacking Soccer, in the first half by UTS Olympic last Saturday night to knock over Marconi by three goals to one.

The display served definite warning David Ratcliffe's 'Blue and Whites' are extremely serious and very hungry contenders to collect only their second national League championship come May.

In front of a Marconi Stadium ground record for a League match, a capacity crowd of 11,866 were highly entertained in an all-action affair getting full value for their money.

SCORERS: Marconi: Bingley (83), Poimer (4). Olympic: Trajanovski (26, 49 pen).
YELLOW CARDS: Marconi: De Marigny (44). Olympic: Poimer (31).
POY: 3-Barrett (Olympic), 2-Trajanovski (Olympic), 1-Ciantar (Olympic).
CROWD: 11,866
REFEREE: B.Hugo

Even Australia's World Cup coach, Eddie Thomson who was at the match to run his eye over two of Olympic's players, commented: "It was top stuff that fully deserved a top crowd".

Marconi was rammed and rattled on the ropes as early as the fourth minute when Olympic's powerhouse and intelligent striker Derek Poimer nailed the target after goalkeeper Bobby Catlin inexplicably spilled a Nick Meredith shot on the first

post following a short corner from the right.

Smelling early blood, Olympic's fury increased as they attacked with seven men which completely buckled any intended Marconi midfield authority fully expected from Brad Maloney, Eric Hristodoulou and Mike Smith.

While Olympic's forwards were supported from the back, Marconi's defence remained static.

But at all times down the other end, Olympic's twin-stoppers Adam Ciantar and youngster Ivan Zelic, stood firm against anything that Marconi's twin-marksmen of Francis Awaritefe and Andy Harper could throw at them.

It was only a matter of time before Olympic would double the scoreline and in the 26th minute Kris Trajanovski scored the first of his brace with an incredible goal on the turn whilst he appeared to be very tightly held by Marconi's skipper and free-back, Jean

Paul De Marigny.

Marconi finally looked like hitting back in the 42nd minute when Francis Awaritefe broke away to shoot past the advancing keeper, George Bouhoutos. To his double horror, Awaritefe struck the under-side of the bar and from the ensuing rebound crashed his second shot onto the far post.

Four minutes into stoppage time of the first session Olympic was in again through a well-taken penalty by Trajanovski after De Marigny brought down a galloping Taliadoros on the right side inside the box.

Marconi salvaged a goal seven minutes from time when an alert Bingley who was released as a marker and brought into the midfield, intercepted a back-pass from Olympic's lateral defender Milan Blagojevic to score.

Bingley's goal proved most costly as unfortunately he suffered a severe shin-gash as he collided heavily with



Kris Trajanovski: His two goals put paid to Marconi.

Bouhoutos' outstretched boot.

The wound was bleeding freely and he was forced to leave the field. This left Marconi with ten men.

Once again a very subdued

Olympic coach, David Ratcliffe, reflected: "Yes it was a great result to beat Marconi as I feel teams only come here hoping to snatch a draw which we certainly did not do. We actually won the

game in the first half thus forcing them to come out in the second and have a go at us".

A most uncharacteristically humble Marconi coach, Manfred Schaefer, confessed: "It was a game of two halves as we conceded easy goals in the first session, but good luck to them. The first ten minutes of the first half we showed something but after that we fell away very badly and at halftime I could have taken off any two players".

But Schaefer ended with a stern warning: "I'm sure before long we will again grab the lead in the League".

MARCONI: Catlin: Bingley, Longo, Souris, De Marigny, Renaud, Maloney, Hristodoulou, (Cassidy 46th) Smith (Stanton 63rd), Harper (Zoric 46th) Awaritefe.

OLYMPIC: Bouhoutos: Barrett, Zelic, Ciantar, Meredith, Tome, (Bove 80th) Tsekenis, Taliadoros (Edwards 71st), Poimer (Augerinos 60th), Trajanovski.

Large crowd witness tactical battle

BRISBANE STRIKERS 1 WOLLONGONG CITY 1

BY GLENN DAVIS

Brisbane Strikers' injury woes hit rock bottom after their surprise 1-all draw with wooden spooners Wollongong City at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

The Strikers, who've been the big movers in the Ericsson Cup and retained third place on the ladder, have been hit with a mini injury crisis which could worsen for next weekend's important clash against South Melbourne.

Skipper Frank Farina went into the Wollongong match carrying a groin injury sustained in a midweek training session and was joined after the game by experienced midfielder Gary Phillips with a similar complaint.

With coach Bruce Stowell already down seven players on his full roster, the simple fact remains that the Strikers can't afford any injuries.

Farina, who has bagged two hat-tricks already this season, struggled bravely with his handicap and couldn't be blamed for missing a late penalty which would have seen the Strikers victorious.

The match, easily the most drab of the season despite drawing a superb crowd of 5,432, lacked any fire with neither goalkeeper tested until the final ten minutes during a Wollongong revival.

Wollongong deserved credit for

SCORERS: Brisbane: Forshaw (42 og) - Wollongong: Lloyd (76)
YELLOW CARDS: Brisbane: Nil Wollongong: Ceccoli (68), O'Shea (71), Naumovski (80)
POY: 3-Phillips (Brisbane), 2-Jermen (Wollongong), 1-Zoricich (Brisbane)
CROWD: 5,432
REFEREE: E. Brazzale

their simple battle plan of getting behind the ball, effectively blunting out any Strikers hopes.

It took the home side 42 minutes before the deadlock was broken when Alan Hunter fired in a long cross towards Farina at the



Gary Phillips: Man of the Match despite receiving injury.

far post.

As Wollongong 'keeper Brett Hughes rushed from his line, defender Steve Forshaw tragically headed into his own net.

The lacklustre affair failed to ignite after the break although Wollongong appeared to grab more of the initiative.

Striker Mario Jermen missed a relatively easy chance to equalise shortly after the break following a superb ball into the box by Matt Horsley.

Wollongong eventually drew level in the 76th minute catching the Strikers on the break, allowing substitute Richard Lloyd who had combined with Tony Perinich to score.

Wollongong could easily have caused the upset of the season on full time when Jermen blasted a shot through a congested goalmouth onto the upright.

Strikers coach Bruce Stowell blamed complacency for an apparent lack of desire from his team despite earbashing them all week about being over confident.

Stowell said Wollongong battled hard and got behind the ball well to absorb pressure before trying to catch the Strikers on the break.

"They didn't do it much in the first half but in the second as the game wore on we became so keen to win it we nearly lost it," Stowell said.

BRISBANE: Bolton, Zoricich, Williams, Hunter, Phillips, Farina, Polak, Brown, T. Cranney, Ditton (Hews 81), Brayshaw.

WOLLONGONG: Hughes, Petratos (Lloyd 62), Bourke, Horsley, Naumovski, Perinich, Forshaw, Jermen, O'Shea, Pollari, Ceccoli.

West dominate, South score the goals

WEST ADAIDE 0 SOUTH MELBOURNE 2

BY PETER KRUPKA

An inspirational performance from South Melbourne's goalkeeper, Michael Petkovic kept his side's final chances alive as it struggled to a 2-0 win over West Adelaide at Hindmarsh Stadium last Sunday night.

The Blues scored through recalled midfielder Agim Sherifovski in the 43rd minute, having spent most of the half defending numerous attacking moves from the home team.

Sherifovski glanced home a header after a perfect headed pass from Con Blatsis.

The visitors, who had barely troubled West 'keeper Peter Blazincic before the telling goal, defended with the passion expected from a side fighting for a place in the finals.

The Blues scored a second goal in the fifth minute of time added on in the second half when an unmarked Michael Curcija, blasted the ball past Blazincic.

But the result did not tell the story of the match which West dominated.

Nathan Day and Branko Milosevic were commanding but South, led by sweeper Alex Kuzmanovic, remained resilient.

Every time the Sharks worked their way into the goal area, a desperate lunge from Petkovic or a defender's boot was in the way.

SCORERS: South: Sherifovski (43), Curcija (90)
YELLOW CARDS: West: Day (40)
South: Baser (30), Panopoulos (39), Sherifovski (55), Orlic (59)
POY: 3-Petkovic (South), 2-Kuzmanovic (South), 1-Milosevic (West)
CROWD: 5,058
REFEREE: S. Micallef

The home side's best chance of the first half fell to Olyroo Richie Alagich who stormed into the penalty area to meet a cross by Day but he could not control the shot and skied it over the bar.

Petkovic, younger brother of Soccerroo custodian Jason and in only his third national league game, shaped as the hero for South.



Michael Petkovic: Performance rated best seen by Arok.

Day worked his way onto his right foot for a vicious shot which was blocked by Petkovic and a second effort by West to fire the ball home failed to get through the wall of Blues' defenders.

Minutes later captain Robbie Hooker charged through the midfield and unleashed a brilliant shot from 30 metres which Petkovic deflected wide of the post with a fingertip save.

Nine minutes before full-time, substitute Jose Iriarte weaved his way through the penalty area but blasted his shot over the bar.

"It was a grand final for us. Without those points we would be written off but we have to keep winning our matches away from home," Arok said.

He rated Petkovic's performance in goal as the best he had ever seen by a 'keeper.

West had not lost a league match since its 2-0 loss to Melbourne Knights on Boxing Day.

The home side's form contrasted to South Melbourne which came off a 4-1 hammering by Marconi last week.

"They were on a very good run and their confidence was high while we were shattered. It was a very good effort. We were forced to make some changes and they worked," said Arok.

WEST: Blazincic, Alagich, Kokkinopitis, Slager (Iriarte HT), Hooker, Tibaldi, Aloisi, Milosevic, Ndongo-Keller, Tsekenis, Day.

SOUTH: Petkovic, Blatsis, Kuzmanovic, Panopoulos, Trimboli, Sherifovski (Damianos 88), Knezevic, Baser (Curcija 90), Allsop, Muscat, Orlic (Anthopoulos 77).

ERICSSON CUP

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Wollongong City v Newcastle Breakers



**Friday,
February 23
BRANDON
PARK**



WOLVES	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Brett Hughes	G	19 (0)	0	2 (1)
Steve Angelov	G	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Martin Bourke	D	20 (0)	0	2 (0)
Matthew Dihm	D	5 (3)	0	0 (0)
Steve Forshaw	D	11 (1)	1	2 (1)
Bill Gjakovski	D	14 (1)	1	3 (1)
Ian Pollari	D	3 (0)	0	1 (0)
George Jolevski	D	13 (3)	0	2 (1)
Richard Lloyd	D	11 (2)	0	1 (0)
Mike O'shea	D	6 (0)	0	4 (0)
Joe Vrkic *	D	2 (1)	0	1 (0)
Paul Beltrame *	M	6 (3)	0	2 (0)
Mineo Bonetig	M	3 (7)	0	1 (0)
Matthew Borg	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Alvin Ceccoli	M	1 (2)	0	1 (0)
Claudio Cellini	M	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Stephen Laybutt	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Pedro Ricoy	M	16 (0)	0	4 (1)
Matt Horsley	M	18 (0)	0	1 (0)
Lupco Naumovski	M	16 (0)	2	2 (0)
Angelo Petratos	M	6 (10)	2	2 (1)
Mario Jermen	S	7 (4)	2	0 (0)
Colin Luff	S	4 (9)	1	0 (0)
Tony Perinich	S	20 (0)	5	2 (0)
Stuart McClaren	S	7 (2)	0	2 (0)
Rob Middleby	S	12 (2)	0	2 (2)

* Paul Beltrame's stats include 4 full and 3 substitute appearances, 2 y c for Marconi
* Joe Vrkic made 1 sub appearance for Syd Utd.

**Head to Head : Wolves 3-4-0, Goals (11-7)
Wolves at home: 2-1-0, Goals (6-3)**

RECORD

WOLVES

Record Score: 3-1 (H)
1993/94
LAST FIVE MATCHES
At home: 0-0-5

NEWCASTLE

Record Score: N/A
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 0-0-5

NEWCASTLE	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Craig Carter	G	19 (0)	0	2 (0)
Adam Fittock	G	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Adam Sanderson	D	11 (0)	0	1 (0)
Steve Hickman	D	18 (0)	0	5 (1)
Nick Johns	D	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ralph Maier	D	19 (0)	0	3 (0)
Glen Moore	D	7 (2)	0	2 (0)
Shane Pryce	D	7 (2)	0	4 (0)
Peter Ritchie	D	2 (0)	0	1 (0)
Andy Roberts	D	12 (0)	0	2 (0)
Glen Sprod	D	11 (2)	1	1 (0)
Darren Stewart	D	8 (0)	1	4 (0)
Gary Wilson	M	9 (0)	0	3 (0)
Craig Sharpley	M	17 (0)	0	2 (0)
Damian Brown	M	12 (4)	2	0 (0)
Troy Halpin	M	6 (3)	3	2 (0)
Scott Thomas	M	4 (6)	1	3 (0)
Jason Bennett	S	14 (1)	4	0 (0)
David Lowe	S	16 (3)	2	2 (0)
Harry James	S	3 (4)	1	0 (0)
Clayton Zane	S	13 (4)	3	2 (0)

ABSW TIPS

- (48) Alistair Russell: Wollongong
(42) John Economos: Newcastle
(57) Greg Blake: Newcastle
(53) Con Stavros: Newcastle
(39) Bob Brooks: Draw

Marconi Fairfield v Sydney United



**Saturday,
February 24
MARCONI
STADIUM**



MARCONI	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Bob Catlin	G	20 (0)	0	0 (0)
Luke Casserly	D	6 (6)	0	2 (0)
J P De Marigny	D	18 (0)	0	6 (0)
Aaron Holst	D	5 (2)	0	0 (0)
Darren Iocca	D	1 (5)	0	2 (0)
Dominic Longo	D	12 (0)	1	3 (1)
Mike Smith	D	13 (0)	5	4 (0)
Paul Souris	D	15 (4)	0	0 (0)
Robert Stanton	D	14 (5)	0	2 (0)
Gary Van Egmond	D	12 (0)	0	3 (0)
Matt Bingley	M	16 (1)	4	0 (0)
Ramon Climent	M	3 (2)	0	1 (0)
Eric Hristodoulou	M	13 (6)	3	0 (0)
Brad Maloney	M	19 (1)	4	2 (0)
Andrew Ravanella	M	0 (2)	0	1 (0)
Brendan Renaud	M	5 (5)	1	0 (0)
Vlado Zoric	M	6 (7)	0	1 (0)
Andy Harper	S	19 (0)	10	3 (0)
Francis Awaritefe	S	19 (1)	9	3 (0)

**Head to Head: Syd Utd 10-9-6, Goals (35-35)
Marconi at home: 2-7-4, Goals (14-15)**

RECORD

MARCONI

Record Score: 5-0 (A)
1987
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 2-1-2

SYDNEY UTD

Record Score: 3-0 (H)
1994/95
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 1-3-1

SYD UTD	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
John Perosh	G	19 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mark Babic	D	17 (0)	0	2 (0)
Paul Bilokapic	D	17 (0)	1	4 (0)
Andrew Crews	D	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Velimir Kupresak	D	20 (0)	0	2 (0)
Richard Plesa	D	9 (4)	0	3 (0)
Tony Popovic	D	17 (0)	4	2 (0)
Mark Rudan	D	7 (7)	1	3 (0)
Robert Enes	M	18 (0)	0	4 (0)
Aytek Genc	M	13 (0)	1	2 (0)
Chad Gibson	M	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ante Moric	M	13 (0)	0	2 (1)
Jim Patikas	M	7 (0)	0	1 (0)
Robert Trajkovski	M	5 (1)	0	1 (0)
Robert Markovac	M	7 (6)	3	1 (0)
Dominic Usalj	M	2 (5)	0	0 (0)
James Aschner	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Sean Babic	S	4 (10)	3	3 (0)
Manis Lamond	S	4 (7)	3	1 (0)
Ante Milicic	S	20 (0)	5	2 (0)
David Zdrilic	S	19 (1)	4	3 (0)

ABSW TIPS

- (48) Alistair Russell: Draw
(42) John Economos: Draw
(57) Greg Blake: Marconi
(53) Con Stavros: Marconi
(39) Bob Brooks: Marconi

UTS Olympic v West Adelaide



**Sunday
February 25
LEICHHARDT
OVAL**



OLYMPIC	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
George Bouhoutsos	G	6 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mike Gibson	G	14 (0)	0	0 (0)
Scott Baillie	D	6 (1)	1	4 (0)
Dave Barrett	D	20 (0)	0	3 (0)
Milan Blagojevic	D	18 (0)	0	4 (0)
Adam Ciantar	D	18 (0)	1	0 (0)
Nick Meredith	D	16 (1)	1	7 (0)
George Sorras	D	3 (5)	0	2 (0)
Ivan Zelic	D	2 (1)	0	0 (0)
Walter Ardone	M	14 (2)	2	3 (0)
Elias Augerinos	M	3 (11)	2	1 (0)
Kris Trajanovski	M	19 (0)	15	1 (0)
Peter Tsekenis	M	19 (0)	1	3 (0)
George Valas	M	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Raphael Bove	U	1 (2)	0	0 (0)
Alistair Edwards	S	2 (1)	0	1 (0)
Ivo De Jesus	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Norman Tome	S	19 (0)	5	4 (0)
Kim Taliadoros	S	14 (2)	5	2 (0)
Chris Slater *	S	5 (8)	1	1 (0)
Derek Poimer	S	2 (0)	2	2 (0)

* Chris Slater's stats include 1 full and 2 substitute appearances for Brisbane.

**Head to Head: Olympic 11-3-9, Goals (32-28)
Olympic at home: 7-1-3, Goals (19-13)**

RECORD

UTS OLYMPIC

Record Score: 4-0 (A)
1989/90
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 2-3-0

WEST ADELAIDE

Record Score: 4-0 (A)
1977
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 1-0-4

WEST AD	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Peter Blazincic	G	20 (0)	0	1 (0)
George Haniotis	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Robbie Hooker	D	19 (0)	3	2 (0)
Rechat Mezensof	D	0 (4)	0	0 (0)
Con Kokkinoplitis	D	19 (0)	0	2 (0)
Frank Tibaldi	D	17 (0)	0	4 (1)
Robbie Slager	D	18 (0)	2	4 (0)
Richie Alagich	M	19 (1)	0	2 (0)
Ross Aloisi	M	18 (0)	2	6 (0)
Ayrton Andrioli	M	3 (5)	0	2 (0)
Jim Keramidas	M	2 (3)	0	0 (0)
Pablo Cardozo	M	18 (1)	6	3 (0)
Atthan Lekkas	M	2 (2)	0	1 (0)
Branko Milosevic *	M	12 (2)	0	1 (0)
Hamilton Thorpe	M	7 (3)	0	1 (0)
Jim Tsekinis	S	19 (1)	7	3 (0)
Jose Iriarte	S	7 (8)	0	3 (0)
C Ndongo-Keller	S	3 (2)	4	0 (0)
Nathan Day	U	13 (5)	4	5 (0)

* Branko Milosevic's stats include 2 full and 2 substitute appearances for UTS Olympic

ABSW TIPS

- (48) Alistair Russell: Olympic
(42) John Economos: Olympic
(57) Greg Blake: Olympic
(53) Con Stavros: Olympic
(39) Bob Brooks: Olympic

ERICSSON CUP

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

South Melbourne v Brisbane Strikers



Sunday
February 25
BOB JANE
STADIUM



SOUTHS	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
		(I) RES		(I) RC
Dean Anastasiadis	G	15 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Lilikakis	G	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Petkovic	G	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Con Anthopoulos	D	13 (2)	0	3 (0)
Alan Davidson	D	7 (0)	0	0 (0)
Alex Duric	D	3 (2)	0	3 (0)
Steve Mangos	D	4 (3)	1	0 (0)
Kevin Muscat	D	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Nick Orlic	D	14 (4)	0	2 (0)
Jean Paul Knezevic	D	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Alex Kuzmanovic	D	17 (0)	0	4 (1)
Nick Papadopoulos	D	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mike Valkanis	D	10 (1)	0	5 (0)
Paul Trimboli	M	18 (1)	7	1 (0)
Tansel Baser	M	8 (3)	0	2 (0)
Con Blatsis	M	9 (0)	1	3 (1)
Bill Damianos	M	12 (6)	2	1 (0)
Sasa Nikolic	M	5 (8)	0	2 (0)
Steve Panopoulos	M	15 (2)	4	3 (0)
Mike Petersen	M	18 (0)	0	5 (0)
Daniel Allsopp	S	6 (1)	1	0 (0)
Vaughan Coveny	S	17 (0)	4	1 (1)
Michael Curcija	S	0 (2)	1	0 (0)
Ivan Kelic	S	14 (2)	7	1 (0)
Craig Lewis	S	3 (13)	1	4 (0)
Agim Sherifovski	S	11 (2)	2	3 (1)

* Orlic's stats include 12 full, 4 substitute appearances and 1 y c for UTS Olympic

Head to Head: Level 4-1-4, Goals (Sths 13-12)
Souths at home: 3-1-0, Goals (10-2)

RECORD

STH MELBOURNE

Record Score: 5-1 (H)
1992/93
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 3-1-1

BRISBANE

Record Score: 3-0 (H)
1995/96
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 3-1-1

BRISBANE	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
		(I) RES		(I) RC
Clint Bolton	G	20 (0)	0	0 (0)
Andrew Brayshaw	D	7 (10)	1	2 (1)
Glen Gwynne	D	8 (0)	0	2 (0)
Alan Hunter	D	17 (0)	1	1 (0)
Steve Jackson	D	7 (1)	0	2 (0)
Chris Zoricich	D	16 (2)	3	4 (1)
Craig Williams	D	7 (6)	1	2 (0)
Mark Battistin	D	15 (2)	2	4 (0)
Sean Cranney	M	16 (0)	3	2 (0)
Troy Cranney	M	20 (0)	0	1 (0)
Brad Ditton	M	2 (3)	1	0 (0)
Chay Hews	M	0 (6)	0	0 (0)
Gary Phillips	M	16 (0)	1	1 (0)
Jason Polak	M	19 (0)	1	2 (0)
Danny Wright	M	12 (4)	1	3 (0)
Reece Tollenaere	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Rod Brown	S	20 (0)	7	1 (0)
Frank Farina	S	17 (0)	12	3 (1)

ABSW TIPS

- (48) Alistair Russell: Souths
(42) John Economos: Brisbane
(57) Greg Blake: Brisbane
(53) Con Stavros: Souths
(39) Bob Brooks: Brisbane

Blanco's dream fulfilled

BY TED SIMMONS OF AAP

Raul Blanco (right) completed part of a long-held dream when he was appointed last week as the Australian Olympic soccer coach for the Sydney 2000 Games.

Blanco takes charge under current national and Olympic coach Eddie Thomson for the Sydney Games. Australia, as host country, has automatically qualified. He will also be involved in the Atlanta Games.

"It's something you dream could happen and it did happen. I've always felt part of the national team and I'm very honoured by the appointment," said Blanco who has been a regular member of the national coaching panel for the past nine years.

"My family was highly emotional when I told them. It was a very special moment for all of us and an unforgettable day in my life.

"The rest of the dream is an Olympic medal and I think we



have a great opportunity to get that in Sydney.

"The Sydney Olympics will be the biggest soccer event ever staged in Australia and it will give us a wonderful opportunity to

showcase Australian soccer to the world."

Blanco has a long, successful record in Australian soccer, starting with his playing days with Sydney Olympic and Prague from

1967-73.

He began his coaching career with Parramatta Eagles in the NSW State League in 1977 leading to his first appointment as an assistant coach with Les Scheinflug in 1981.

Scheinflug is currently Thomson's deputy and is responsible for the under 20 and under 17 sides.

"I've been so fortunate to work with the national team for such a long time. I have a great relationship professionally with Les and Eddie and it has continued outside the playing field," he said.

"We are a team, have been a team and will remain a team."

Blanco said his real job will start after the Atlanta Olympics when he will continue searching for methods to make Australia better.

He plans to visit overseas countries to learn the latest techniques and said he has always been keen to study.

"The biggest mistake a man can make is to think he knows it all," he said.

SA appointment strengthens board

Soccer Australia has entered a new era in its administration with the appointment of Sue Baker-Finch as a member of its board.

Baker-Finch, the first woman on the board of Soccer Australia, is the general manager of the 1997 Australian Masters Games to be staged in Canberra, and has a working background in the sport.

She joins George Negus as the second independent commissioner after the board decided last October that the second appointment would be a prominent woman.

"I'm pleased to accept the position and I hope my expertise with all levels of government will assist Australian soccer," she said.

"I also believe a woman on the board is important given that Soccer Australia has made a strong commitment to the development of the women's game."

Her appointment is until July 1997 and she will be eligible for re-appointment.

Baker-Finch, who was previously a member on the Soccer Australia committee for women's soccer, was nominated by the Australian Womens Soccer Association.



BIG LOSS FOR SOCCER

Soccer Australia has a recorded an operating loss of almost \$800,000 for the last financial year.

They have however budgeted for a financial surplus for this year and predict the \$798,425 loss will be overturned. The lion's share of the loss, from October 1994 to September 1995, has been attributed to the National Soccer League before it was restructured this season.

Prior to dumping three teams from the league at the start of this season, chairman David Hill said that the national competition was losing a million dollars a year by propping up unviable clubs. He warned at the time that unless the league was restructured the competition would go broke within two years.

Another heavy outlay for Soccer Australia was the cost of the damning Stewart Inquiry into corruption in the game which was funded by the authority to the tune of \$500,000.

There were also legal fees for Soccer Australia to pay its solicitors for work done during the Senate Inquiry.

The national competition did not have a major sponsor last season, but now has a five year naming rights sponsor in communications giant Ericsson which is believed to worth \$1 million annually.

Australia gain revenge

A sickening head clash left striker Warren Spink in hospital last Wednesday but a stunning Australian revival saw the Socceroos down Japan 3-0 in their second international friendly at Lakeside Stadium, Melbourne.

Adelaide City striker Damian Mori drew first blood in the 15th minute and then Joe Spiteri and substitute Matthew Bingley clinched the contest in the second half. The inclusion of Japanese top player Kazu Miura did not overawe the Australians who followed Thomson's instructions to the letter.

The only dampener was Spink's injury which resulted from a clash with Japanese defender Norio Omura in the 26th minute (see story page 8).

Japan began to surge forward more often when half-time substitute Hiroshige Yanagimoto freed up the midfield.

While Miura looked more



Joe Spiteri: Scored Australia's second goal.

menacing in front of goal, it was Tsuyoshi Kitazawa who came closest to scoring.

Within the space of two minutes, Kitazawa should have equalised at 1-1 but was denied

through Australia's debutant goalkeeper Jason Petkovic and veteran sweeper Milan Ivanovic.

Ivanovic managed to block Kitazawa's shot in the 58th minute after Miura delivered a sharp cross.

Thomson would have breathed a huge sigh of relief when Mori jumped above Japanese goalkeeper Kazuya Maekawa to head home Australia's first goal in the 15th minute after Spink's shot rebounded off a defender.

After Australia withstood a mini Japan comeback, Spiteri finally got his name on the score sheet thanks to an exquisite play from team mate Tony Popovic.

Popovic, who wandered down from defence in the 70th minute, trapped a ball, and stalled sufficiently before laying off for Spiteri.

In the 74th minute, two of Australia's substitutes combined when Paul Trimboli back heeled

a ball and opened up a gap for Bingley who scored with a powerful left foot strike. Thomson said the critics who condemned the Socceroos after the Wollongong debacle should apologise.

AUSTRALIA: Jason Petkovic, Goran Lozanovski, Robert Hooker (Dominic Longo 88th), Alex Tobin, Tony Popovic, Milan Ivanovic, Paul Wade (Matthew Bingley 67th), Jason Polak, Damien Mori (Kevin Muscat 73rd), Warren Spink (Paul Trimboli 29th), Joe Spiteri. JAPAN: Kazuya Maekawa, Masami Ihara, Norio Omura, Masaharu Suzuki (Naoki Soma HT), Kentaro Sawada (Hiroshige Yanagimoto HT) Motohiro Yamaguchi, Hajime Moriyasu (Yasuto Honda 65th), Tsuyoshi Kitazawa, Hiroshi Nanami (Masayuki Okano 74th), Takuya Takagi, Kazuyoshi Miura.

SCORERS: Australia: Mori (15), Spiteri (70), Bingley (74). CROWD: 4,937.

National Youth League

Eagles crush Saints

BY PETER KONSTO

Parramatta Eagles strengthened their claim for a play-off berth with a convincing 4-0 away victory over St. George on Sunday.

It was the home team that started the better of the two sides pinning the Eagles in their own half from the opening, but soon after, disaster struck for the Saints.

A clearance and a quick inter-change of passes between Gary Attard and Bekir Bulut saw the Eagles break out of defence and into a counter-attack. Bulut carried the ball and charged towards the opposition penalty area. Once inside the box, he was clumsily bundled over by a St. George defender for a penalty. The ensuing spot-kick was duly dispatched by Glenn Meilak after only four minutes.

Going behind seemed like only a slight set-back for the Saints as they again began to dominate proceedings but were simply unable to convert their possession and field position into an equaliser. Matt O'Shea combined well with John Pillemer to create a chance for the former whose dipping

drive from outside the box crashed against the top of the cross-bar.

This inability to score cost them dearly when another counter-attack by the visitors saw the Saints go even further behind, a great through-ball from

Anthony Kanaan saw Attard clinically slot past Jose Bello Amigo in the St. George goal after 29 minutes.

Once two goals clear, the initiative switched from the home team to the Eagles as they created

chance upon chance in the lead-up to half-time.

However, just before the break, the home team suffered an enormous set-back when their most enterprising forward, Rube Nasser was sent-off for his second bookable offence.

St. George were always going to find it difficult coming back after being reduced to ten men and this certainly proved to be the case after the re-start.

Parramatta continued to dominate and could of gone even further into the

lead soon into the second half but Bulut failed to convert an unselfish pass from Attard with an open goal beckoning.

Indeed, it seemed that this would be the story of the second half with the Eagles unable to score

from the numerous promising moves they created with Attard being the main culprit.

But he soon made amends with a great goal on the 78th minute mark. Attard beat three defenders with some close control just outside the area and once inside the box let loose with a vicious drive that slammed home.

Four minutes later, substitute Mark Leone volleyed in a deflected shot from Bulut to round off an emphatic win for the Eagles.

The 0-4 loss sees the Saints still languishing down the wrong end of the table while Parramatta continue with their steady climb up the table.

A late goal from Anthony Barac was enough to secure another away victory for the ACT Academy over Newcastle Breakers in Newcastle. The win sees the Academy slot into third place.

AIS picked up their thirteenth win of the season with a 3-1 win over the NSWITC to consolidate their second spot on the ladder, still five points behind the leaders, Marconi Fairfield.

ROUND 20									GRAHAM ARNOLD COLTS CUP – ROUND 12											
Newcastle Breakers.....0	ACT Academy.....1	Bonnyrigg White Eagles.....3	Sutherland Shire.....																	
Australian Institute of Sport6.....3	NSW ITC.....1	Canterbury Berries.....0	Sydney United.....7																	
Queensland Academy of Sport...2	Wollongong City.....5	Parramatta Eagles.....1	Bankstown City.....																	
Blacktown City.....1	Sydney United.....6	Central Coast.....3	Leichhardt Tigers.....0																	
St. George.....0	Parramatta Eagles.....4	Warringah Dolphins.....0	Macarthur Rams.....2																	
		Rockdale Ilinden.....1	Illawarra Lions.....5																	
	P W SD D L F A Pts	Central Coast	12 6 4 0 2 30 22 26																	
Marconi Fairfield	19 15 0 1 3 64 14 46	Macarthur Rams	11 7 2 0 2 21 12 25																	
A.I.S.	20 13 0 2 5 63 28 41	Illawarra Lions	10 6 2 0 2 22 11 22																	
ACT Academy	20 12 0 2 6 40 35 38	UTS Olympic	11 7 0 1 3 15 4 22																	
Sydney United	19 12 0 0 7 38 25 36	Parramatta Eagles	10 5 3 0 2 14 15 21																	
Wollongong City	19 10 0 2 7 43 38 32	Sydney United	12 4 4 0 4 19 14 20																	
UTS Olympic	19 8 0 4 7 40 28 28	Rockdale City Sun	13 6 1 0 6 20 23 20																	
Parramatta Eagles	20 7 0 6 7 35 31 27	Warringah Dolphin	12 5 2 0 5 20 15 19																	
QLD Academy of Sport	17 8 0 1 8 44 30 25	Bonnyrigg W.E.	12 5 2 0 5 17 19 19																	
Newcastle Breaker	20 7 0 2 11 33 42 23	Bankstown City	13 5 1 1 6 26 20 18																	
Blacktown City	19 5 0 4 10 30 56 19	Leichhardt Tigers	12 4 1 0 7 13 25 14																	
St. George	17 2 0 2 13 14 58 8	Canterbury Berrie	12 4 0 0 8 12 26 12																	
NSW ITC	19 2 0 0 17 11 70 6	Sutherland Sharks	11 3 1 0 7 17 22 11																	
		Adamstown Rosebud	11 1 1 0 9 12 30 5																	

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

BLACKTOWN CITY 1 SUTHERLAND 1

In a lack-lustre display Blacktown City Demons did just enough to hold out for a 1-1 draw at the Gabbie Stadium on Saturday, against fast finishing Sutherland Sharks.

Jay Anderson won promotion from the Les

Scheinflug Under 18 competition, to make his first team debut. He is a consistent scorer in that team but never managed to penetrate the tight Sutherland marking.

Anderson replaced the injured Jason Connelly who strained a hamstring in last week's win over Rockdale.

Antony Versi shocked the visitors within the first two minutes. An attempted clearance on the edge of the penalty area fell invitingly for him. His overhead bicycle kick was executed to perfection and the ball flew into the top corner, leaving goalkeeper Scott Preston flat-footed.

The Sharks were not stunned by this early set back. The ever dangerous Grant Bard got on the end of a Shane Clinch cross but his header went just round the post.

Blacktown were awarded a free kick near the corner flag in the tenth minute. Patrick Bradley put it into the danger zone where it was only half cleared. Martin Driene fired back in only for Preston to gather cleanly.

Driene raided forward from the back in the 22nd. His cross was neatly headed down by Anderson for Versi to shoot from 15 metres. His attempt was off target.

Weak heading from in front of goal was a feature of the game. First it was David Thomas for Sutherland and just three minutes later Steve Berry's turn for the home side. Two minutes before the break Driene was forced to make a saving tackle on the edge of the box. Harry Christadoulou found space and set off goalwards. He had the goals in his sights when Driene flew across to intercept and sweep the ball



Anthony Versi: Scored with smart bicycle kick.

away.

With the second stanza only just underway, Berry again found himself perfectly placed for a free header. The Sharks custodian had no trouble gathering the ball.

It was a different matter in the 60th. Versi was fed superbly by Bradley. The Demons goal scorer twisted and turned to make room before unleashing a rocket shot which Preston dived full length to save.

Fifteen minutes from time Dragan Pupovac was forced to dive into a ruck of players to take the ball off Dean Klower's boot. In frustrating the Sharks, Pupovac received

a hand injury. He resumed after treatment.

The Sharks came forward in waves for the remainder of the game and it seemed inevitable that they would score. Their reward came in the 85th minute inevitably from Bard. A cross from the left had Pupovac in two minds as he hesitated the ace goal scorer got under the ball with his head, to expertly loop it into the empty net.

With time running out on referee Rob Davies' watch, Tony Cabassi received his marching orders for a crude tackle for which he was shown his second yellow card.

FIRST GRADE										
Bonnyrigg W. Eagle	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Bankstown City	2	2	0	0	0	8	3	6		
Adamstown Rosebud	2	2	0	0	0	6	2	6		
Blacktown City	2	1	0	1	0	5	2	4		
Sutherland Sharks	2	1	0	1	0	2	1	4		
Warringah Dolphin	2	1	0	1	0	2	1	4		
Parramatta Eagles	2	1	0	0	1	4	1	3		
Leichhardt Tigers	2	1	0	0	1	2	4	3		
Central Coast	2	0	0	1	1	3	4	1		
St. George Saints	2	0	0	1	1	1	3	1		
Rockdale City Sun	2	0	0	1	1	4	7	1		
Macarthur Rams	2	0	0	0	2	0	3	0		
Illawarra Lions	2	0	0	0	2	4	9	0		
Canterbury Berries	2	0	0	0	2	2	8	0		
SATURDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY										
St. George Saints.....1	Warringah Dolphins.....1									
Central Coast.....3	Rockdale City Suns.....3									
Blacktown City.....1	Sutherland Sharks.....1									
SUNDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY										
Illawarra Lions.....2	Adamstown Rosebud.....4									
Canterbury Berries.....1	Bonnyrigg White Eagles.....3									
Parramatta Eagles.....0	Bankstown City Lions.....1									
Macarthur Rams.....0	Leichhardt Tigers.....2									
UNDER 21										
Macarthur Rams	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Adamstown Rosebud	2	2	0	0	0	4	1	6		
Central Coast	2	2	0	0	0	4	2	6		
Bonnyrigg W. Eagle	2	1	0	1	0	5	3	4		
Canterbury Berries	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	4		
Sutherland Sharks	2	1	0	0	1	3	2	3		
Rockdale City Sun	2	1	0	0	1	3	3	3		
Warringah Dolphin	2	1	0	0	1	2	2	3		
Parramatta Eagles	2	0	0	2	0	2	2	2		
Bankstown City	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	1		
Leichhardt Tigers	2	0	0	1	1	3	5	1		
St. George Saints	2	0	0	0	2	2	4	0		
Illawarra Lions	2	0	0	0	2	7	10	0		
Blacktown City	2	0	0	0	2	1	4	0		
SATURDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY										
St. George Saints.....1	Warringah Dolphins.....2									
Central Coast.....3	Rockdale City Suns.....2									
Blacktown City.....1	Sutherland Sharks.....3									
SUNDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY										
Illawarra Lions.....4	Adamstown Rosebud.....5									
Canterbury Berries.....0	Bonnyrigg White Eagles.....0									
Parramatta Eagles.....0	Bankstown City Lions.....0									
Macarthur Rams.....3	Leichhardt Tigers.....1									

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 3

SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

Sutherland Sharks v Central Coast

Seymour Shaw Park, 5.00pm

Adamstown Rosebud v Canterbury Berries

Adamstown Oval, 6.00pm

St George Saints v Illawarra Lions

St George Stadium, 6.00pm

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Parramatta Eagles

Serbian Centre, 6.00pm

SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

Bankstown City Lions v Macarthur Rams

Jensen Park, 5.00pm

Leichhardt Tigers v Blacktown City Demons

Lambert Park, 5.00pm

Warringah Dolphins v Rockdale City Suns

Cromer Park, 5.00pm

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DIABETES
AUSTRALIA
VICTORIA



TACKLE DIABETES



Victorian Premier League

SPRINGVALE CITY 0 BULLEEN 1

BY DWIGHT TUFFNELL

Bulleen Lions broke through for their first win of the season on Friday night with a hard fought 1-0 win over Springvale City Vales.

Top marksman Dale White scored his fourth goal of the season with a first minute strike from Robert Stojcevski's pass.

The Vales had chances to level with both David Grella and Dougie Nolan coming close to scoring.

Jamie McMinimee was dismissed for a second caution when he clashed heavily with Tom Sonsini.

The Vales battled on despite being a man down and nearly drew level with Andy Lancaster shooting just wide in the 59th minute.

VALES: Dastoy, Lettieri, Nolan, P. Grella (Piemonte), Razzi, Spina, McMinimee, McClenaghan, D. Grella, Lancaster, Rosa (De La Plaza).

LIONS: Olver, Valentice, Stojcevski, Giaccherini, Slifkas, Sonsini, McAleer, White, Di Iorio (Everetts), Grbac, Liparoti.

REFEREE: Steve Kravetski. VOTES: 3 — White (Bull), 2 — Stojcevski (Bull), 1 — Razzi (Spr).

BENTLEIGH 4 BOX HILL 1

BY JOHN RIGAS

New kids on the block Bentleigh Greens steamrolled Box Hill Inter with ten men after Raff Bakker was sent off for violent conduct in the 39th minute.

Making his debut for Bentleigh was Zoran Todorovski from Morwell

Falcons who teamed up well with fellow striker Ike Alagozidis, between them scoring three of the goals.

Bentleigh had an impact on the scoreboard in the 39th minute when Harris Micheil supplied a superb cross to Todorovski who expertly head the ball past goalkeeper Sean Keogh.

The speedy Todorovski scored his second in the 55th minute as he received a centre from midfielder Gerry McDonagh to powerfully head the ball past goalkeeper Sean Keogh.

Box Hill pulled a goal back when Peter Petrakos scored from close range in the 58th minute. Alagozidis showed his class as his curling freekick from 20 metres landed in the top left hand corner to make the score 3-1 in the 78th minute.

Alagozidis was in the thick of the action again, this time setting up Micheil who powered his shot past Keogh in the 86th minute.

GREENS: Laumets, Drakos, Micheil, Crivari, Kourkoutzelos (Kotsovolos), Theoharous, Bakker (sent off), McDonagh, Todorovski (Sevanstiadis), Alagozidis, Lutton (Constantinou).

INTER: Keogh, Pansino, D. Tartaglia, Dal Ben, Castro, Ingleso (Chirilo), Guscic, Gugulemi, Tsakiris (Di Iorio), Impellizzeri, Petrakos.

VOTES: 3 — Alagozidis (Greens), 2 — Todorovski (Greens), 1 — Micheil (Greens).

REFEREE: Andrew Stacey.

ST. ALBANS 1 THOMASTOWN 2

BY BOB PROTUDER

Title favourites Thomastown Zebras overcome a determined St.

T A B L E

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Melb. Warriors	5	5	0	0	20	2	15
Sunshine Georgies	5	5	0	0	11	1	15
Altona Magic	5	4	0	1	9	5	12
Nt. Gee. Warriors	5	3	1	1	8	7	10
Bent. Greens	5	3	0	2	6	5	9
Thomast. Zebras	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
Gr. Gully Cav.	5	1	3	1	8	8	6
Spr. City Vales	5	2	0	3	9	13	6
Bulleen Lions	5	1	2	2	6	7	5
St. Alu. Saints	5	1	1	3	6	8	4
Pt. Melb. Sharks	5	0	3	2	6	12	3
Fawkner Blues	5	0	2	3	5	9	2
Box Hill Inter.	5	0	1	4	1	12	1
Albion Redsoxs	5	0	1	4	1	12	1

PASCOE VALE SPORT SCENE TOP VOTES

DESPOTOVSKI	10	(Melbourne)
NILO	9	(Sunshine)
ALAGOZIDIS	7	(Bentleigh)
WHITE	6	(Bulleen)
GRBAC	5	(Bulleen)
M. COLINA	5	(St. Albans)
D. GRELLA	5	(Springvale)
KEOGH	5	(Box Hill)
GEORGIADIS	5	(Melbourne)
HASLER	5	(Melbourne)
NGATA	5	(Thomastown)

LEADING GOALSCORERS

DESPOTOVSKI	12	(Melbourne)
NILO	7	(Sunshine)
TSOLAKIS	6	(Melbourne)
D. GRELLA	5	(Springvale)
WHITE	3	(Bulleen)
UJGUNOVSKI	3	(Fawkner)
FITZPATRICK	3	(North Geelong)

NORTH GEELONG 2 FAWKNER 1

BY JOHN DIDULICA
North Geelong Warriors sensational start to the season continued at Elcho Park on Sunday with an exhilarating win over Fawkner Blues.

Fawkner were awarded a penalty in the 49th minute. The Blues Frank Tramontana burst into the Warrior's penalty area only to be upended by a clumsy Ante Deak challenge. Tony Ujgunovski converted the penalty. Mijo Trupkovic who displayed a glimpse of genius by flicking the ball to Charlie Fitzpatrick whose lunge poked the ball past goalkeeper Joe Rados in the 53rd minute.

Before the Warriors fans and the Fawkner players could regroup, Trupkovic capitalised on some poor defence in the 54th minute to feed Fitzpatrick his second goal.

WARRIORS: Didulica, O'Sullivan, McAuliffe, Cosic, Dimovski, Medved, Trupkovic, A. Skoko (G. Skoko), Deak, Kules (Bot), Fitzpatrick.
BLUES: Rados, Vassiliadis, Tramontana, Giordano, Schipano, Ferla, Recchia, Retre, Branov, Gymnopoulos, Ujgunovski.
VOTES: 3 — Deak (Warriors), 2 — Fitzpatrick (Warriors), 1 — Didulica (Warriors).

MELBOURNE WARRIORS 4 ALTONA 0

BY NICK TZAHERIS
Melbourne Warriors smashed their way to five straight wins after classily trouncing defending title holders Altona Magic.

The Warriors were superior in every department and made a mockery of the pre-match clash of the giants billing.

Goalscoring sensation Bobby Despotovski darted to 12 goals for the season after belting home the second and fourth goals.

Melbourne raced to a 3-0 lead within the first half through Peter Tsolakis, Andy Vlahos and Despotovski and were denied from extending the score by both Darren

McGrath and the goal post. The fourth goal from Despotovski was a gem, when he weaved past two helpless defenders and then breathtakingly shot past McGrath from outside the area.

On this showing, the Warriors are clearly the top pick for the championship, with Thomastown or Bulleen the only sides to challenge the gold and black juggernaut.

WARRIORS: Clarke, Karapatsos, Fak, Tsoumerkas, Iosifidis, Georgiadis, Karkaletsis, Vlahos (Tyricos), Tsolakis (Hastie), Despotovski, Kiratzoglou.

MAGIC: McGrath, Atanasovski (Cvetkovski), Tasevski (Bogoevski), Markovski, Emosovski, Radecki, Georgopoulos (Madarovski), Becvinovski, Rusmir, Micevski, Velkovski.

VOTES: 3 — Georgiadis (Warriors), 2 — Despotovski (Warriors), 1 — Karapatsos (Warriors).

REFEREE: Gerry Connolly.

ALBION 0 SUNSHINE 3

BY LUKE BUTTIGIEG
Bill Murray's stint as Albion Redsox coach began disappointingly on Sunday, when his team was thrashed 0-3 by the still unbeaten Sunshine Georgies.

The game was just four minutes old when Anthony Cassar drifted past the Redsox defence to head home Ilija Dragicevic's freekick.

Trailing 0-1 at the break, John Grimuad's crude tackle on Sunshine's Daglaras cost his team dearly, when Juan Nilo easily converted the resulting penalty.

After a Daglaras goal was ruled off-side, Cassar dashed up the flank and crossed to Spencer Field, who's brilliantly executed mid air kick looped over keeper Robert Brian and into the net.

The match ended on a sour note when a scuffle between Nilo and Albion's

Justin Geri resulted in both players being sent off.

REDSOX: Brian, Grimuad, Lucchesi, Wilson, Collins (R. Osman), McGeachey, Gurbinar, Geri (sent off), Popovski (E. Osman), Hulusi.

GEORGIES: Wardle, Makris, Kanesoulis, Cassar, Ferla, Dragicevic (M. De La Plaza), Field, Aretis, Nilo (sent off), Daglaras, Scrobone (Markovski).

VOTES: 3 — Cassar (Georgies), 2 — Daglaras (Georgies), Ferla (Georgies).

REFEREE: Cain Naumcevski.

PORT MELBOURNE 2 GREEN GULLY 2

BY SCOTT SPITS

A remarkable last minute goal by Green Gully's Steve Douglas gave the Cavaliers a worthy 2-2 draw with Port Melbourne on Sunday.

The match appeared certain to finish in Port's favour until referee Stephen McEwan gave an indirect freekick which was converted.

The game was largely lacklustre until the 75th minute when a heartbreaking own goal Con Haitas gave Green Gully the all important equaliser.

Port Melbourne's goals were the result of two great individual efforts by the Shark's dubutant Alex Duric and man of the match Clayton Bell in the 29th and 80th minutes respectively.

Both coaches agreed that the draw was a fitting result to a see-sawing game.

SHARKS: Pappas, Argyriou, Dimitrelos, Chalmers, Haitas, Svigos (Latinopoulos), Palamaras, Bell, Psaros, Duric, Cotis.
CAVALIERS: Vella, Spiteri, Ketsakidis, Douglas, Azzopardi, Chetcuti, Scoble, Markovski, Brown, Babic, Suric.

VOTES 3 — Bell (Sharks), 2 — Markovski (Cavs), 1 — Duric (Sharks).

REFEREE: Stephen McEwan.

NEXT WEEKS DRAW ROUND 6

FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Box Hill Inter v St. Albans Saints (6.30pm)

SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

Fawkner Blues v Melbourne Warriors (6.30pm)

Altona Magic v Springvale City Vales (8.00pm)

Bulleen Lions v Albion Redsox (6.30pm)

Sunshine Georgies v Port Melb. Sharks (6.30pm)

G. Gully Cavaliers v Bentleigh Greens (6.30pm)

Thomastown Zebras v Nth Geelong W. (6.30pm)

ROUND 5 RESULTS

Springvale City Vales 0 Bulleen Lions 1 (White)
Bentleigh Greens 4 (Todorovski 2, Alagozidis, Micheil) Box Hill Inter 1 (Petrakos)

St. Albans Saints 1 (Usljebrka) Thomastown Zebras 2 (Zinni, Gnjudic)

Port Melbourne Sharks 2 (Bell, Duric) Green

Gully Cavaliers 2 (Scoble, Crodden)

North Geelong Warriors 2 (Fitzpatrick 2) Fawkner

Blues 1 (Ujgunovski)

Albion Redsox 0 Sunshine Georgies 3

(Cassar, Nilo, Field)

Melbourne Warriors 4 (Vlahos, Despotovski 2,

Tsolakis) Altona Magic 0



RECORDED RESULTS SERVICE

0055 38887

SUNDAY
MATCH RESULTS
SERVICE

◆ Premier League
◆ State League Div. 1
◆ Provisional
League Divisions 4&5

(Updated by 6.30pm
each Sunday evening)

0055 38878

SATURDAY
MATCH RESULTS
SERVICE

◆ Premier League
◆ State League
Divisions
1 to 3

(Updated by 6.30pm
each Saturday evening)

0055 38898

SATURDAY
MATCH RESULTS
SERVICE

◆ State League
Division 4
◆ Provisional
League Divisions 1-3

(Updated by 6.30pm
each Saturday evening)

(PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 0055 38878)

The Greatest

Jekyll and Hyde Zebras join the list

By Greg Blake

Brad Hassell's last-gasp consolation goal in Adelaide City's 7-1 recent humiliation at the hands of rampaging Brisbane ensured that the once-mighty Zebras didn't break an unenviable Ericsson Cup record.

Had the Strikers managed to keep John Perin's team scoreless in the game earlier this month, Brisbane would have recorded the greatest form reversal in two decades of Ericsson Cup history.

As it was Brisbane's stunner, to avenge an early-season 7-0 bashing in Adelaide at the hands of the Zebras, grabbed headlines with the wire services posting the change of tidal wave proportions

as an all-time record.

In fact, the Brisbane effort only equals that of Blacktown City recorded some 17 years ago, when the then league newcomers turned the tables on mighty Marconi in sensational fashion.

Just a couple of games into the 1980 season the fledgling Demons got a taste of just how competitive the National League could be as they ventured to Marconi Stadium for the first time.

The result is a still current Marconi club record 9-0 flogging of hapless Blacktown and the Fairfielders were unbackable for the return clash at the Gabbie Stadium.

In one of the biggest shocks in league history the gutsy Demons rolled Marconi 5-1 for a stunning



13-goal turnaround to set a record which has stood the test of time.

Brisbane's recent spectacular triumph was only the third time in league history that any club has avenged itself by a margin of 10 goals or more against the same opponent in the same season. (See Table).

Wollongong City managed a 10-goal switch back in 1989/90, the Wolves recovering from a 4-

1 drubbing at West Adelaide to slaughter the travelling Sharks 7-0 later in the season.

That Wollongong result also has a special significance in one other aspect of stunning form reversals, with Adelaide City recently coming close to another all-time Ericsson Cup record by thrashing Morwell 5-0 in the very next league game after the Queensland debacle.

That 11-goal swing in back-to-back league games was also only the third time in league history that a team has reversed consecutive games with a 10 or more goal turnover margin.

Those remarkable 1989/90 Wolves hold that record outright.

Just one week after Pat Brodnik's six-goal haul had helped the Wolves demolish West Ade-

elaide 7-0 the steel city side hosted Frank Arok's St George at Brandon Park.

The form of the previous round disappeared without a trace, with an Andy Harper hat-trick helping the Saints to a 6-0 thumping of those perplexing Wolves.

The only other time in league history a team has had its form reversed in such emphatic fashion was in 1980, when Heidelberg United followed up a 5-1 home triumph over Apia by getting mauled 7-0 by Brisbane City in Queensland the very next week, that 11-goal margin equalled by Adelaide City in the consecutive Brisbane and Morwell games earlier this month.

This current season has already produced two league rar-



ADELAIDE CITY:
Thrashed by Brisbane
7-1 after winning earlier
in Adelaide by 7-0.



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:
Involved in big scoring
encounters with rivals
Adelaide City.



SWEET REVENGE

The best-ever efforts of clubs turning the tide against the same opponent in the same season

GOAL TURNOVER MARGIN	SEASON	RESULTS
13	1980	Marconi Fairfield 9 — Blacktown City 0 Blacktown City 5 — Marconi Fairfield 1
13	1995/96	Adelaide City 7 — Brisbane Strikers 0 Brisbane Strikers 7 — Adelaide City 1
10	1989/90	West Adelaide 4 — Wollongong City 1 Wollongong City 7 — West Adelaide 0
9	1980	Heidelberg United 3 — Brisbane City 1 Brisbane City 7 — Heidelberg United 0
9*	1984	West Adelaide 7 — Sunshine George Cross 0 Sunshine George Cross 2 — West Adelaide 0
9	1986	Sydney City 7 — St George 0 St George 2 — Sydney City 0
9	1990/91	Melbourne Knights 3 — Adelaide City 0 Adelaide City 6 — Melbourne Knights 0
9	1991/92	Melbourne Knights 6 — Newcastle Breakers 0 Newcastle Breakers 4 — Melbourne Knights 1
8	1982	Apia Leichhardt 2 — Marconi Fairfield 0 Marconi Fairfield 7 — Apia Leichhardt 1
8	1989/90	St George 1 — Wollongong City 3 Wollongong City 0 — St George 6
8	1991/92	South Melbourne 6 — Apia Leichhardt 1 Apia Leichhardt 5 — South Melbourne 2
8	1995/96	Wollongong City 2 — South Melbourne 0 South Melbourne 6 — Wollongong City 0

Match-ups include only games played in one individual regular season schedule, and not from one season to the next. The game noted first in each case being the first between the two respective clubs in that season. Home club mentioned first.

*These two teams met four times in the 1984 regular season under the then old Southern and Northern Division system, although the two games mentioned are in the exact sequence they were played.

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Form Reversals

of Ericsson Cup headline makers

ities, with sides deviating between great and appalling in dramatic fashion.

Only once, prior to this season, had a team in this league lost and won in such emphatic fashion as did Brisbane and South Melbourne this year.

In 1993/94 Newcastle produced eight and nine goal swings in three consecutive games, losing 3-1 at Marconi, winning 6-0 at home to Heidelberg and then losing 4-1 at Melbourne Knights from rounds 10 to 12 of that season.

This season that 17-goal, 3-game swing has been repeated twice, by Brisbane from rounds six to eight (1-0 v Morwell, 0-7 v Adelaide City and 3-1 v Canberra) and South Melbourne from round 15 through 17 (1-3 v Can-

berra, 6-0 v Wollongong and 1-4 v Sydney United).

But if those results were perplexing enough, imagine the dizzy spells suffered by the Blacktown faithful back in 1980.

Remember, that was the season the Demons turned the tables on Marconi in record-breaking fashion but it wasn't only the Fairfielders who copped some vengeance Blacktown-style.

The Demons hold a league record for form reversals in a single season for their 1980 efforts of reversing results against five different clubs (4-1 and 0-1 v Brisbane Lions, 3-0 and 0-3 v Melbourne City JUST, 5-1 and 0-9 v Marconi, 4-2 and 1-4 v St George as well as 1-0 and 2-4 v West Adelaide).

One other current day rivalry has its roots in a history littered with dramatic roller-coaster form reversals.

Adelaide City and Melbourne Knights are more associated with current day grand final rivalry, yet these two clubs have spent much of the post decade beating each other senseless.

In five of the past 10 seasons the two clubs have each shared spectacular regular season wins over the other, with five goal or more reversals between games in 1985, 1988, 1990/91, 1991/92 and 1994/95.

It'll be interesting to see what happens on April 4 this year, when the league's newest swinging couple — Adelaide City and the Brisbane Strikers — go at it again at Hindmarsh Stadium.

THE BREAKDOWN

How often the big swings have happened in two decades of the Ericsson Cup.

Goal turnover margins	No. of times club have turned tide versus same opponent in same season	No. of time clubs have come back or flopped in next league game
7	14	40
8	4	32
9	5	14
10	1	0
11	0	2
12	0	0
13	2	1

Figures include all national soccer league games (ie. excluding top 4/5 cup and finals games) played from opening day in 1977 up to and including all matches played on February 11, 1996.

SWINGS & ROUNDABOUTS

The best-ever recoveries and worst-ever follow-ups in the very next game

GOAL TURNOVER MARGIN	SEASON	ROUND	RESULTS
13	1989/90	21	Wollongong City 7 — West Adelaide 0
		22	Wollongong City 0 — St George 6
11	1980	18	Heidelberg United 5 — Apia Leichhardt 1
		19	Brisbane City 7 — Heidelberg United 0
11	1995/96	18	Brisbane Strikers 7 — Adelaide City 1
		r/a*	Adelaide City 5 — Morwell Falcons 0
9	1979	3	Sydney City 0 — Marconi Fairfield 4
		4	St George 0 — Sydney City 5
9	1980	5	Sydney City 7 — West Adelaide 0
		6	Brisbane Lions 2 — Sydney City 0
9	1980	5	Sydney City 7 — West Adelaide 0
		6	West Adelaide 4 — Blacktown City 2
9	1981	24	Preston 6 — Wollongong City 0
		25	Wollongong City 4 — Adelaide City 1
9	1984	5	Newcastle Rosebud 3 — Green Gully 1
		6	Sydney City 8 — Newcastle Rosebud 1
9	1985	21	Marconi Fairfield 6 — Penrith City 0
		22	Penrith City 4 — Newcastle Rosebud 1
9	1986	10	Sydney City 7 — St George 0
		11	St George 4 — Newcastle Rosebud 2
9	1989/90	2	Blacktown City 3 — Marconi Fairfield 1
		3	Blacktown City 0 — Marconi Fairfield 7
9	1990/91	8	Marconi Fairfield 4 — UTS Olympic 1
		9	Melbourne Knights 6 — Marconi Fairfield 0
9	1993/94	7	South Melbourne 3 — Adelaide City 0
		8	Adelaide City 6 — Melbourne Zebras 0
9	1993/94	11	Newcastle Breakers 6 — Heidelberg United 0
		12	Melbourne Knights 4 — Newcastle Breakers 1
9	1994/95	12	Melbourne Zebras 0 — South Melbourne 6
		13	Melbourne Zebras 3 — Heidelberg United 0
9	1995/96	7	Adelaide City 7 — Brisbane Strikers 0
		8	Brisbane Strikers 3 — Canberra Cosmos 1
9	1995/96	16	South Melbourne 6 — Wollongong City 0
		17	Sydney United 4 — South Melbourne 1

Match-ups include only games played in one individual regular season schedule, and not from one season to the next. Home club mentioned first.

*Denotes games from other rounds re-scheduled to complete sequence.



WOLLONGONG CITY: Slammed West Adelaide 7-0, in the 1989/90 season, then went down 0-6 to St. George the very next game.

BRISBANE STRIKERS: Stunned visiting Adelaide City, this season, by wreaking a terrible revenge.



WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

Oakley moves on

Victoria's World Cup defender Jane Oakley, the only player to announce her retirement after the event in Sweden, received recognition from VWSA for her contribution to the sport, last week at Bob Jane Stadium after the match.

Oakley who made around 35 appearances for Australia spanning over a decade, was presented with a plaque by Australia Women's coach Tom Sermanni.

Now with new goals, Oakley is coach of her old club side this year playing under the banner of Cranbourne.

She has also been asked to take charge of the ITC program's Development squad, and is considering going for a State team position.

"There are some good young kids coming through in Victoria, and hopefully down the track I can boast I helped get some of these



Jane Oakley: Moved on to new goals in coaching.

youngsters into the Australia team," said of her coaching ambitions.

"But at the moment (in Victoria) there is quite a gap between these youngsters

and the more experienced players who are probably too old for the Australian team now."

Asked for her views on the new Australian squads overall, Oakley agreed there had been an obvious need for change.

"The concentration on youth should see these players blended in and playing at the highest level. In saying that, I hope the older ones can share their experience with them."

"The changes are healthy — we can start afresh with no preconceived ideas," Oakley added. "We can just work hard and go for it."

I think a few players got complacent. Those who have been dropped — if they really want to get back in, they know they'll have to work for it."

"My only admission is of myself — I'm glad I got out at the right time," concluded the 29-year-old Oakley.

OAP ASSEMBLED ON GOLD COAST

Australia's new OAP squad assembles for the first time as a group this Thursday in Southport on Queensland's Gold Coast.

This first up training camp will provide Australia Coach, Tom Sermanni with further clues as to the quality of these his initial selections.

Sunday will see the squad take on the Queensland Select team in what should be a top spectacle before the Socceroos' international against Sweden.

The match should prove more than a test for the Aussies as Queensland's seven OAP members and three train-ons will all be wearing maroon.

Locals can catch all the action this Sunday at 5pm at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium.

U-21s SHOW THEIR SKILL

Australia's Under 21 players were too strong for the Victorian Select team last Wednesday at Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne, winning with a 3-0 margin.

Part of the U21 camp, the Australian side had at their disposal around 20 players, and split the group into two to play one half each.

Victoria were able to field their two Australian train-on players, and also called World Cup player Jane Oakley out of retirement for the occasion.

The younger brigade took the lead after 20 minutes when Michelle Watson rose above a pack of Victorian defenders to head home a Joanne Peters corner.

Peters herself advanced the tally to two in the 65th minute. Tammie Thornton intercepted a home side back pass, before cleanly slotting the ball to Peters on the back post to knock the ball into the net.

With 10 minutes remaining, the Aussies notched up their third goal when Tasmanian Sarah Fitzgerald went on a solo run, beating two players before sneaking the ball past Victoria's keeper.

Although not convinced his team was pushed to its limits, coach Tom Sermanni was pleased with the match which was played before the Socceroos clash with Japan.

"It's pleasing to see the players getting into good habits during matches and in their training regimes," said Sermanni afterwards.

"This week's training camp has gone exceptionally well. It's obvious that there's a lot of promise within the squad."

PLAYER FACTS

— Belinda Kitching —
OAP Squad, QLD

Nickname:	Kitcho
Date of Birth:	15th July, 1977
Birthplace:	Ipswich, Qld
Height:	170cm
Naturally L or R footed:	Left
Position:	Goalkeeper
Club:	Coalstars
Occupation:	Cafe Assistant
No. of brothers/sisters:	1 brother, 1 sister
When/why started soccer:	Age 7 — Watched my brother in the backyard and wanted to play.
Previous clubs:	Coalstars, Qld Academy of Sport
Rep Honours:	Qld Junior 1991-93; Aust Junior 1992-93; Qld Youth 1993-95; Qld Open 1994-95
Most difficult opponent:	Anyone with a lethal shot
Soccer highlight:	Dallas Cup win 1995
Favourite player:	Ryan Giggs (Man Utd)
Car I drive:	Any one I can get my hands on
Favourite food:	Roast dinners
Favourite drink:	Coke
Favourite music:	Anything latest
Favourite TV:	Comedies
Favourite actor:	Kevin Costner
Hobbies:	Playing tennis, Hanging out with friends
First thing I'd buy if won lottery:	Honda sports car
Person I'd most like to meet:	Peter Schmeichel
Soccer ambitions:	To be Australia's No.1 keeper and play in the 2000 Olympics
Pre-match meal:	Pasta
Pre-match superstitions:	None
Best aspect of my game:	Diving
Worst aspect:	Kicking
Atlanta Olympics prediction:	Norway

FIERY CLASH ON CARDS IN SYDNEY

Following the Australian OAP Camp in Queensland, interstate members of the squad will return home via Sydney next Wednesday to take the field for a clash against Sydney Cosmos before the Socceroos versus Sweden encounter.

Sydney Cosmos, a professionally backed club preparing for a big assault in its first involvement with women's soccer, has included in its ranks Julie Murray, Denie Pentecost and Claire Nichols, World Cup players with a definite point to prove following their omission from the OAP squad.

From this aspect alone, the match is set to be a fiery battle.

The game is set down for Wednesday, February 28, 5pm at Sydney Football Stadium.

SYDNEY UNITED SOCCER CLUB



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WOMEN'S TEAM
competing in NSW State League
2nd Division

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Sydney United on

(02) 823 6418

BETWEEN 9AM-5PM — MON-FRI

Ram gets behind women

Ram Sportswear, the company making great strides on the Australian soccer market, has further strengthened its committed support of women's soccer with its sponsorship of the Marconi Women's team tour of Italy.

"I am delighted with the impact we have made in women's soccer and sales have justified our investment," said Ram's Terry Coates.

"When Marconi coach Anissa Tann-Darby negotiated with us on the possible sponsorship arrangement, we were more than happy to respond positively to such a professional organisation."

Ram is one of a handful of companies in the world granted the strict FIFA approval for its soccer balls, and Marconi will be using this top quality product on tour where they take on teams in Milan, Rome and Florence.

Tann-Darby, who has used the Ram footballs extensively during Australia team commitments, says she is delighted with the deal.



Marconi keeper Amanda Peterson — ready to take on the Italians and delighted with her Reusch sponsorship and the club's deal with Ram.

MARCONI TOUR OF ITALY

TOUR ITINERARY

20 Feb	Depart Sydney
22 Feb	Marconi v ACF Monza
24 Feb	Watch Monza v Verona (women's)
27 Feb	Marconi v ACF Agliana
29 Feb	Marconi v ACF Lazio
01 Mar	Marconi v ACF Lazio Youth Team
02 Mar	Watch Cagliari match
03 Mar	Watch Lazio v Inter (men's)
04 Mar	Depart Italy

ITALY's Serie A & B

TABLES

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	22	14	7	1	36	15	49
Fiorentina	22	12	6	4	35	20	42
Parma	22	11	8	3	33	19	41
Juventus	22	11	5	6	35	22	38
Lazio	22	10	6	6	42	25	36
Inter	22	8	8	6	29	18	32
Roma	22	8	7	7	28	22	31
Udinese	22	8	6	8	26	29	30
Vicenza	22	7	8	7	22	22	29
Napoli	22	7	8	7	22	26	29
Sampdoria	22	7	7	8	30	33	28
Cagliari	22	8	3	11	21	33	27
Atalanta	22	7	5	10	25	35	26
Piacenza	22	6	6	10	23	38	24
Padova	22	6	3	13	26	37	21
Torino	22	4	9	9	21	33	21
Bari	22	4	6	12	32	47	18
Cremonese	22	2	8	12	23	35	14

SERIE B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cesena	23	10	7	6	31	21	37
Verona	23	10	7	6	26	21	37
Perugia	23	9	8	6	28	23	35
Bologna	23	8	11	4	20	15	35
Pescara	23	9	7	7	28	28	34
Ancona	23	10	2	11	33	29	32
Lucchese	23	7	11	5	24	24	32
Reggiana	23	8	8	7	22	22	32
Salernitana	23	7	9	7	22	18	30
Genoa	23	8	6	9	34	32	30
Cosenza	23	6	12	5	26	24	30
Venezia	23	7	9	7	19	23	30
Palermo	23	6	12	5	16	21	30
F. Andria	23	7	8	8	28	25	29
Avellino	23	8	5	10	25	30	29
Brescia	23	7	6	10	28	26	27
Chievo V.	23	4	14	5	19	19	26
Foggia	23	6	8	9	17	25	26
Reggina	23	6	8	9	22	33	26
Pistoiese	23	4	8	11	20	29	20

RESULTS

SERIE A

Cagliari	.....3	Sampdoria	.....0
Cremonese	.....0	Fiorentina	.....0
Milan	.....3	Bari	.....2
Napoli	.....0	Juventus	.....1
Parma	.....2	Padova	.....1
Piacenza	.....2	Atalanta	.....2
Torino	.....0	Inter	.....1
Vicenza	.....0	Udinese	.....1
Lazio	.....1	Roma	.....0

SERIE B

Cesena	.....2	Ancona	.....1
F. Andria	.....4	Palermo	.....0
Foggia	.....0	Avellino	.....1
Genoa	.....0	Perugia	.....1
Lucchese	.....2	Pistoiese	.....1
Pescara	.....0	Chievo V.	.....0
Reggiana	.....1	Cosenza	.....1
Reggina	.....0	Bologna	.....1
Salernitana	.....3	Venezia	.....1
Verona	.....2	Brescia	.....1

Weah sustains head injury but scores



Antonio Benarrivo: Struck early in second half for Parma.

Liberian soccer star George Weah was helped off with a head injury after a brave header two minutes from time gave Serie A leader, Milan a thrilling 3-2 win today over Bari, to open up a seven-point gap at the top of the table.

The giant forward collided heavily with goalkeeper Alberto Fontana, as he headed home a long through-ball from the edge of the penalty area. This was his third goal in as many matches since returning from the African Nations Cup in South Africa.

Earlier, in the seventh and 28th minutes, Milan had twice taken the lead through Marco Simone only for second-from-bottom Bari, the last team to steal three points off the league leader, to fight back and level the scores with goals from Francesco Pedone and Luigi Sala.

Weah's late strike ensured Milan took full advantage of Fiorentina's scoreless draw at Cremonese, where the second-placed club badly missed the finishing touch of suspended Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta.

Third-place Parma took advantage of Fiorentina's rare lapse, overcoming Padova 2-1 to move to within a single point of its closest rivals. Parma's goals came from Melli in the 11th and Benarrivo 57 with Kreek gaining a consolation with two minutes to go.

Fabrizio Ravanelli, a second-half substitute for Alessandro Del Piero, struck with ten minutes left to earn fourth-place Juventus a 1-0 win at Napoli. This is the first time since September that the champion has strung two consecutive victories together.



With five victories in its last five outings and no losses in its last 16, Milan now leads the first division with 49 points from 22 matches, seven ahead of Fiorentina on 42; Parma lie third on 41 points with Juventus a distant fourth on 38.

Marco Branca's 12th goal of the season was enough to give Inter its first away win of the season, 1-0 at relegation-threatened Torino.

Cagliari greeted new manager Bruno Giorgi, brought in after Giovanni Trapattoni had walked out, with a convincing 3-0 win over Sampdoria.

Batistuta passes century

A hat-trick by Argentine Gabriel Batistuta powered Fiorentina to a 3-1 win over Internazionale in an Italian Cup semi-final, first leg match last Thursday.

Batistuta opened the scoring with a 13th minute penalty but Inter, with England's Paul Ince directing midfield, bounced right back when Maurizio Ganz re-directed a Roberto Carlos cross to equalise in the 33rd.

Batistuta responded in the 47th minute when he poked a soft lob over a helpless Gianluca Pagliuca for his 100th goal in five seasons at Fiorentina.

The powerful striker sealed victory four minutes from time, blasting a diagonal shot past Pagliuca after hauling in a long cross and dribbling past a defender.

Crowd clashes mar game

Crowd trouble marred last Wednesday's Italian Cup semi-final first leg encounter between Bologna and Atalanta at the Dall'Ara stadium.

Visiting fans ripped out seats and tried to fight their way through to opposing supporters after Bergame Paganin put through his own net to give Bologna the lead.

Police immediately intervened, charging the troublemakers. One spectator was slightly hurt.

On the pitch, Mauro Valentini equalised in the second half to force a 1-1 draw.

ITALIAN CUP

SEMI-FINAL - FIRST LEG

Bologna	.....1	Atalanta	.....1
Fiorentina	.....3	Internazionale	.....1

Trapattoni & Cagliari part company

Giovanni Trapattoni (right), one of Italy's most revered coaches, walked out on struggling Serie A club Cagliari last week after its thrashing by his old employer Juventus on February 11.

It was the first time that Trapattoni, winner of an unrivalled six league titles with Juventus and one with Internazionale Milan, had quit a club without completing a full season at the helm.

"When I arrived at the club this morning I did not expect to have to hand in my resignation," Trapattoni said before catching a flight back to

Milan. Trapattoni, who joined Cagliari last summer after a disappointing season with Bayern Munich, said he had decided to quit after meeting senior club officials and realising he no longer had their full backing.

"When I arrived in Cagliari I knew I was a hostage to fortune. And that's how it has turned out. I now realise I acted hastily accepting this experience, above all when I promised ambitious targets and the UEFA Cup."

The move caused consternation among Trapattoni's colleagues.

Sampdoria coach Sven-Goran Eriksson, said Trapattoni's resignation was a "sign of the changing times."

"Everyone's job is under discussion, even those who win," he said. "Look at (Nevio) Scala who has taken Parma to the top and yet whose future is constantly being discussed."

Trapattoni, who won two league titles as a player with AC Milan, brought Juventus the European Cup and every other European trophy, including two UEFA Cups.

He also won the UEFA Cup with Inter.



1995 International Matches

In the latest news from FIFA the trend for an increased number of matches from one year to the next was again true of 1995 with more and more "A" internationals being played.

The figure in 1995 was 607, the second highest number in the space of twelve months.

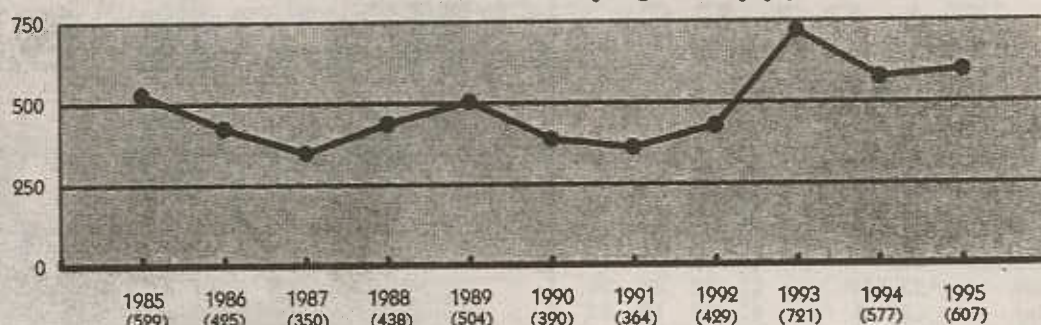
Only 1993 topped this record as a result of the countless preliminaries for the 1994 World Cup.

What is remarkable about this figure is not so much the actual number.

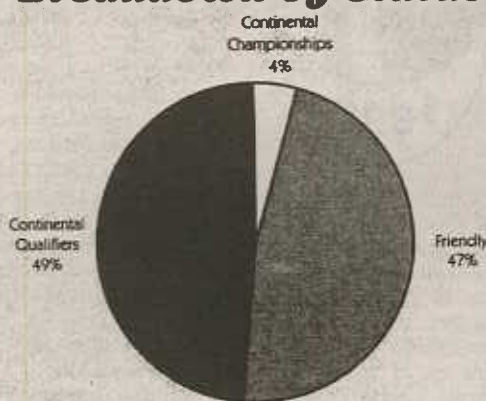
In previous years, the number of international games used to dwindle immediately after football World Cups.

But 1995 excelled the year before, hinting strongly that 1996 will witness yet another increase as a result of the innumerable continental championships and the imminent preliminaries for France '98.

"A" Matches 1985 - 1995

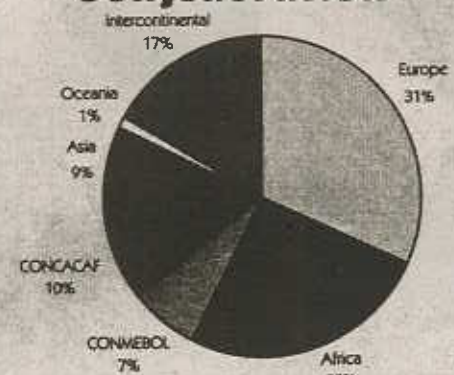


"A" Matches in 1995
Breakdown by Status



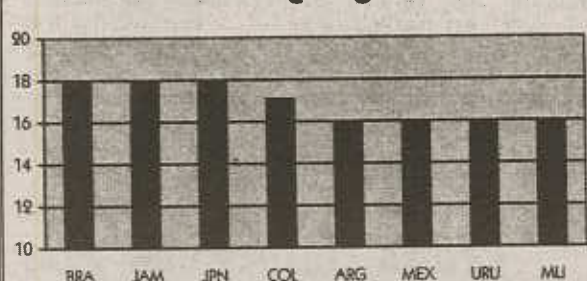
If we split the international matches into categories, friendlies and continental qualifiers take up the lion's share with almost half each, while the small remainder is attributable to Copa America.

"A" Matches in 1995
Breakdown by Confederation



Seen geographically, European countries lined up against one another, as in 1994, in one third of the entire matches. While one quarter was taken up with African encounters. Owing to the relatively large number of continental competition matches (that is, Euro qualifiers, African Nations Cup qualifiers and Copa America), the share of inter-continental games diminished slightly compared with 1994.

"A" Matches played in 1995



With the exception of Japan, the most active countries in 1995 came from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Contrary to 1994, no country played more than 20 internationals in 1995.

Brazil, Japan and Jamaica contested 18; Colombia one less; Argentina, Mexico, Uruguay and Mali each played 16.

Of the teams that played at least 15 games in 1995, only Turkey emerged unbeaten after 15 games (9 wins, 6 draws) although Brazil also remained undefeated at the end of normal playing time in a total of 18 matches.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Nouakchott (Mauritania).....19 | 5. Libreville (Gabon).....10 | 9. Paysandu (Uruguay).....8 |
| 2. Chiangmai (Thailand).....14 | 6. Lampoon (Thailand).....10 | 10. Rivera (Uruguay).....8 |
| 3. Grand Cayman (Cayman).....12 | 7. Riyadh (Saudi Arabia).....9 | 11. Riga (Latvia).....8 |
| 4. Hong Kong.....12 | 8. San Salvador (El Salvador).....9 | 12. Toronto (Canada).....8 |

"A" Matches in 1995
Breakdown by Venue



All statistics courtesy of FIFA's January Newsletter



Corica now a Wolves man

Wolves manager Mark McGhee swooped on his former club Leicester to sign two Australians, midfielder Steve Corica and goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac, in a \$A2.26 million deal last Thursday.

Corica, a 22-year-old midfielder, was signed in time for last Saturday's game at Norwich but Kalac's move is subject to him receiving an extension to his work permit.

Kalac will train at Wolves but continue to be paid by Leicester while Wolves pursue the work permit situation.

If the Department for Education and Employment turn down the

application, Kalac will return to Leicester, where he has made only two appearances since McGhee signed him from Sydney United for \$A1,560,584 last northern summer.

McGhee initially said it would be inappropriate for him to sign players from his former club but Leicester's recent struggles persuaded his successor, Martin O'Neill, to sell.

Corica, moved from Marconi Fairfield for a tribunal-fixed fee of \$A667,355.

Corica could face his former teammates when Wolves play Leicester at Molineux tomorrow (Wednesday).



Rangers through to fifth round

Rangers staged a late recovery to beat Second Division Clyde 4-1 in the Scottish FA Cup fourth round last Thursday.

For an hour underdog Clyde was at least equal to its stuttering opponent and deservedly took the lead through Ian Angus eight minutes into the second half.

Rangers were extremely relieved to level on 66 minutes when the home defence failed to clear a Craig Moore cross and Charlie Miller stroked the ball home.

Miller struck again eight minutes later and the fight went out of Clyde.

In the last 10 minutes, Dutch striker Peter van Vossen scored the third goal and England's Paul Gascoigne the fourth.

FIFA World Player of 1995

How the National Coaches Voted

National coach	First	Second	Third
Neptun Bajko (Albania)	Maldini	Weah	Del Piero
Daniel A. Passarella (Argentina)	Dauids	Maldini	Batistuta
Samuel Darbinyan (Armenia)	M. Laudrup	Vialli	Overmars
Kazbek Tuayev (Azerbaijan)	Weah	Overmars	Sammer
Edward Thomson (Australia)	Maldini	Weah	Juninho
Abdur Rahim (Bangladesh)	Klinsmann	Juninho	Vialli
Paul van Himst (Belgium)	Baggio	Weah	Finidi
Edme Codjo (Benin)	Romario	Baggio	Weah
Dusan Draskovic (Bolivia)	Zamorano	Savicevic	Juninho
Mario Zagalo (Brazil)	Bebeto	Ronaldo	Aldair
Traore Idrissa Malo (Burkina Faso)	Romario	Stoitchkov	Hagi
Dimitar Penev (Bulgaria)	Stoitchkov	Balakov	Penev
Xabier Azkargorta (Chile)	Zamorano	Hierro	M. Laudrup
Qi Wusheng (China)	Batistuta	Klinsmann	Stoitchkov
Rojas Zubio (Costa Rica)	Baggio	Romario	Bebeto
Richard Moller-Nielsen (Denmark)	Sammer	Zamorano	Litmanen
Berti Vogts (Germany)	Klinsmann	Sammer	Weah
Pierre Pleimelding (Ivory Coast)	Maldini	Baresi	Weah
Terry Venables (England)	Baggio	Del Piero	Klinsmann
Roman Ubakivi (Estonia)	Zola	Maldini	Klinsmann
Allan Simonsen (Faroe Islands)	Stoitchkov	Asprilla	Zola
Billy Singh (Fiji)	Amokachi	Shearer	Batistuta
Jukka Ikalainen (Finland)	Litmanen	M. Laudrup	Rijkaard
Aime Jacquet (France)	Weah	Desailly	Maldini
Alexander Tschivadse (Georgia)	Zola	Weah	Klinsmann
Kostas Polichroniou (Greece)	Romario	Weah	Giggs
Koo Luam-Khen (Hong Kong)	Romario	Juninho	Klinsmann
Guus Hiddink (Netherlands)	Weah	Zola	Klinsmann
Hassan Hibibi (Iran)	Weah	Ravanelli	Juninho
Asgeir Eliasson (Iceland)	Overmars	Maldini	Rijkaard
Shlomo Sharf (Israel)	Litmanen	Weah	Suker
Arrigo Sacchi (Italy)	Maldini	Zola	Weah
Prof. Rene Simoes (Jamaica)	Bebeto	Brolin	M. Laudrup
Shu Kamo (Japan)	Roberto Carlos	Weah	Litmanen
Izzak Hamzeh (Jordan)	Weah	Del Piero	Stoitchkov
Bob Lenarduzzi (Canada)	Juninho	Weah	Finidi
Berdalin Strik (Kazakhstan)	Stoitchkov	Romario	Onopko
Mohamed Kheri (Kenya)	Weah	Yeboah	Amunike
Meklis Koschaliw (Kyrgyzstan)	Klinsmann	Stoitchkov	Tsymbalar
Miroslav Blazevic (Croatia)	Boban	Suker	Desailly
Janis Gillis (Latvia)	Weah	Klinsmann	Zamorano
Terry Yorath (Lebanon)	Juninho	Ravanelli	Klinsmann
Wilfred K. Lardner (Liberia)	Weah	Debah	Nagbe
Dietrich Weise (Liechtenstein)	Weah	Sammer	Bergkamp
Benjaminas Zelkevicius (Lithuania)	Weah	Effenberg	Baggio
Paul Philipp (Luxemburg)	Savicevic	Weah	Overmars
William Martins Leite (Macao)	Baggio	Cantona	Preud'homme
Claude Le Roy (Malaysia)	Weah	Maldini	Klinsmann
Pietro Ghedin (Malta)	Maldini	Weah	Del Piero
Henri Michel (Morocco)	Maldini	Weah	Desailly
Jean Michel Benezet (Mauritius)	Weah	Maldini	Savicevic
Andon Donceviski (Macedonia)	Stoitchkov	Balakov	Sergi
Velobor Milutinovic (Mexico)	Batistuta	Weah	Savicevic
Ion Caras (Moldova)	Sammer	Maldini	Weah
Bobby Clark (New Zealand)	Maldini	Weah	Francescoli
Bryan Hamilton (Northern Ireland)	Weah	Batistuta	Klinsmann
Egil Olsen (Norway)	Tsymbalar	Zamorano	Riise
Herbert prohaska (Austria)	Zamorano	Sammer	Polster
Josef Venglos (Oman)	Weah	Klinsmann	Hierro
Ladislao Kubala (Paraguay)	Baggio	Stoitchkov	M. Laudrup
Juan Carlos Oblitas (Peru)	Zamorano	M. Laudrup	Batistuta
Henryk Apostel (Poland)	Ronaldo	Savicevic	Juskowiak
Antonio Oliveira (Portugal)	Baia	Figo	Rui Costa
Cris Vaccaro (Puerto Rico)	Juninho	Zamorano	Maldini
David Mackay (Qatar)	Weah	Klinsmann	Baresi
Anghel Iordanescu (Romania)	Weah	Popescu	Maldini
Oleg Romantsev (Russia)	Weah	Bebeto	Maldini
Giorgio Leonl (San Marino)	Del Piero	Overmars	Baresi
Rose M. Barros (UAE)	Romario	Baggio	Juninho
Craig Brown (Scotland)	Maldini	Romario	Batistuta
Tommy Svensson (Sweden)	Weah	Zamorano	Batistuta
Roy Hodgson (Switzerland)	Baggio	Maldini	Sforza
Ulric Mathiot (Seychelles)	Vialli	Juninho	Klinsmann
Roger Palmgren (Sierra Leone)	Weah	Klinsmann	Rijkaard
Josof Jankech (Slovakia)	Yeboah	Klinsmann	Bergkamp
Zdenko Verdenik (Slovenia)	Weah	Zola	Zamorano
Mohamed Ahmed (Somalia)	Weah	Maldini	N'Doram
Javier Clemente (Spain)	Hierro	Nadal	Zubizarreta
Jorge Fiorfra (Sri Lanka)	Baggio	Maldini	Giggs
John In Jacques (St Lucia)	Romario	Baresi	De Boer
Anatoli Byschowets (Korea Rep.)	Ravanelli	Paolo Sousa	Klinsmann
Armando Ferreira (Swaziland)	Klinsmann	Hagi	Amunike
Gerard Kautai (Tahiti)	Weah	Querin	Keller
Huang Jen-Chen (Taiwan)	Baggio	Bebeto	Romario
James L. T. Fasi (Tonga)	Romario	Baresi	B. Laudrup
Zoran Vranes (Trinidad)	Laiapy	Nakid	Eve
Dusan Uhrin (Czech Rep.)	Weah	Sammer	Bergkamp
Fatih Terim (Turkey)	Romario	Maldini	Zamorano
Henry Kaspercak (Tunisia)	Maldini	Overmars	Weah
Kalman Meszoly (Hungary)	Weah	Bergkamp	Baggio
Hector Nunez (Uruguay)	Francescoli	M. Laudrup	Maldini
Steve Sampson (USA)	Klinsmann	Stoitchkov	Baggio
Bobby Gould (Wales)	Klinsmann	Shearer	Ginola
Serguei Borovsky (Belarus)	Weah	M. Laudrup	Zamorano
Andreas Michaelides (Cyprus)	De Boer	Hierro	Ginola

Full Results of Votes

Note: 1st - 5 pts 2nd - 3 pts 3rd - 1pt

Player	Pts	1	2	3
1. George Weah (Liberia)	170	25	13	6
2. Paolo Maldini (Italy)	80	9	10	5
3. Jurgen Klinsmann (Germany)	58	6	6	10
4. Romario (Brazil)	50	8	3	1
5. Roberto Baggio (Italy)	49	8	2	3
6. Hristo Stoitchkov (Bulgaria)	37	4	5	2
7. Ivan Luis Zamorano (Chile)	36	4	4	4
8. Juninho (Brazil)	28	3	3	4
9. Matthias Sammer (Germany)	23	2	4	1
10. Michael Laudrup (Denmark)	20	1	4	3
Gianfranco Zola (Italy)	20	2	3	1
12. Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina)	18	2	1	5
13. Beбето (Brazil)	17	2	2	1
14. Marc Overmars (Netherlands)	16	1	3	2
15. Dejan Savicevic (Yugoslavia)	13	1	2	2
16. Jari Litmanen (Finland)	12	2	—	2
Fernando Hierro (Spain)	12	1	2	1
18. Franco Baresi (Italy)	11	—	3	2
Fabrizio Ravanelli (Italy)	11	1	2	—
20. Alessandro Del Piero (Italy)	10	1	1	2
21. Gianluca Vialli (Italy)	9	1	1	1
Ronaldo (Brazil)	8	1	1	—
24. Anthony Yeboah (Ghana)	8	1	1	—
Krassimir Balakov (Bulgaria)	6	—	2	—
Dennis Bergkamp (Denmark)	6	—	1	3
Frank de Boer (Netherlands)	6	1	—	1
Enzo Francescoli (Uruguay)	6	1	—	1
Allan Shearer (England)	6	—	2	—
Ilya Tsymbalar (Russia)	6	1	—	1
30. Daniel Amokachi (Nigeria)	5	1	—	—
Vitor Baia (Portugal)	5	1	—	—
Zvonimir Boban	5	1	—	—
Roberto Carlos (Brazil)	5	1	—	—
Edgar Davids (Netherlands)	5	1	—	—
Marcel Desailly (France)	5	—	1	2
Russel Laiapy (Trinidad)	5	1	—	—
37. George Hagi (Romania)	4	—	1	1
Davor Suker (Croatia)	4	—	1	1
39. Faustino Asprilla (Colombia)	3	—	1	—
Tomas Brolin (Sweden)	3	—	1	—
Eric Cantona (France)	3	—	1	—
James S. Debah (Nigeria)	3	—	1	—
Stefan Effenberg (Germany)	3	—	1	—
Luis Figo (Portugal)	3	—	1	—
Vincent Guerin (France)	3	—	1	—
Miguel Angel Nadal (Spain)	3	—	1	—
David Nakid (Trinidad)	3	—	1	—
Paulo Sousa (Portugal)	3	—	1	—
Gheorghe Popescu (Romania)	3	—	1	—
Frank Rijkaard (Netherlands)	3	—	—	3
51. Emmanuel Amunike (Nigeria)	2	—	—	2
Finidi George (Nigeria)	2	—	—	2
David Ginola (France)	2	—	—	2
Ryan Giggs (England)	2	—	—	2
55. Aldair (Brazil)	1	—	—	1
Japhet N'Doram (Tschad)	1	—	—	1
Angus Eve (Trinidad)	1	—	—	1
Andrzej Juskowiak (Poland)	1	—	—	1
Marc Keller (France)	1	—	—	1
Brian Laudrup (Denmark)	1	—	—	1
Zoe Nagbe (Nigeria)	1	—	—	1
Viktor Onopko (Russia)	1	—	—	1
Luboslav Penev (Bulgaria)	1	—	—	1
Toni Polster (Austria)	1	—	—	1
Michel Preud'homme (Belgium)	1	—	—	1
Hege Riise (Norway)	1	—	—	1
Rui Costa (Portugal)	1	—	—	1
Barjuan Sergi (Spain)	1	—	—	1
Ciriaco Sforza (Switzerland)	1	—	—	1
Andoni Zubizarreta (Spain)	1	—	—	1



More popular than Michael Jackson

He may be more popular than rock star Michael Jackson in his country, but the man Soccerroo coach Eddie Thomson dubs the "Maradona of Asian soccer" doesn't need bodyguards to walk the streets of Tokyo.

Indeed, living in one of the world's most crowded cities does have its advantages for Japan's finest soccer player, Kazu Miura.

Although Tokyo, a human sardine can with more than 18 million people, may not be everyone's cup of tea it does give the striking wizard a degree of anonymity which allows him to live a normal life.

Miura, spearheaded Japan's team in the return leg against the Soccerroos last Wednesday night, is a regular night clubber in Japan's capital and also loves to shop with the reported \$3.5 million he earns every year through soccer and endorsements.

"He may be one of our most famous people but it doesn't stop him living a normal life," said Hideki Kato, the Japanese team press officer through an interpreter.

"Kazu is so popular everyone notices him. But he still goes out with friends to Karioka bars and to shop with his wife."

Miura, who has played in both Italy and Brazil, is the face behind the successful J-League which after only a couple of years is now pushing sumo wrestling and baseball as Japan's most popular sport.

He now carries the hopes



Kazu Miura: Never known to have knocked back an autograph request.

of his nation seeking to qualify for its first World Cup in France in 1998.

In 1994, Miura became the first footballer from Japan to break into Italy's Serie A for Genoa, but the 28-year-old has returned home to play with Verdy Kawasaki.

He lives in a luxury apartment in Tokyo but, apart from all the trappings

of success, is still a very approachable hero.

"It amazes me," said Kato. "I have never seen him knock back an invitation to sign an autograph or have his photograph taken. I think this is one of the reasons why he is so popular."

Miura's success galvanised interest in soccer and helped Japan spend a billion dollar

sporting industry with the J-League.

It says much for Japan's leap in world soccer rankings that a contingent of 35 media people followed the team to Australia for two friendly matches. "This is not that many," insists Kato. "Normally anywhere between 50 and 100 reporters follow our matches."

NO DRAWS IN USA PRO SOCCER



The United States' new Major League Soccer competition will ask world governing body FIFA to let it use larger goals for its inaugural season, MLS commissioner Doug Logan said.

Following a monthly meeting of the MLS management committee in Dallas, Logan told reporters by telephone news conference that he would ask FIFA to consider MLS's request at its next meeting, on March 8 in Rio de Janeiro.

"We can't predetermine what the dialogue will be, but I have been instructed (by the management committee) to actively pursue a dialogue," Logan said.

"There are a lot of issues: exact size, height and width. If an agreement is reached on all these issues, we're prepared to play 1996 with larger goals."

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter in January suggested FIFA might experiment with expanding the goal from its current height of 2.44 metres and width of 7.32 metres about two ball lengths wider and one ball length higher.

However, reaction was so quick, loud and decisively negative from member federations and players that FIFA virtually dropped the idea.

Logan wouldn't specify what size MLS would ask for.

On other issues, Logan said MLS will play every game to a victory or loss, with games tied at the end of 90 minutes sent to a shootout. The shootout, however, would not be penalty kicks, but a one-on-one, player-v-goalsituation where the shooter would get the ball 35 metres from the goal and have five seconds to score.

Each team would get five shots, as in penalty-kick tiebreakers, with each team getting one thereafter until the tie is broken. Winners of the shootout would only get one point, and the loser none. Three points would be awarded for a victory in regulation.

"The (club) owners

were pretty adamant to have game determination," Logan said. "Also, we get influenced for a two-hour time-slot on television, which nearly all of our games will be on this season."

Deputy commissioner Sunil Gulati said the decision to go with the one point for a shootout victory was in line with FIFA's stated purpose of discouraging teams from playing for a draw.

"Once you make the jump to decide you want something other than a draw, frankly what you are trying to do is reward teams that play for the win," he said.

"What we've done in this system, is discouraged teams from playing for a draw because they're only playing for one point."

Logan said the old North American Soccer League's method of awarding six point for a victory and bonus points for goals scored up to a maximum limit, was rejected out of simplicity.

"We'd like to have a simple game, relatively consistent numerically with what everybody else is doing," Logan said. "We wanted it easily understood by our fans."

Croatian Corner

By John Viskovich

CROATIA LOSE VASTIC

Its official 23 year old Ivica Vastic has turned his back on Croatia and will now play for Austria.

Vastic who was voted the best player in Austria for 1995 did not figure in Croatia's plans for Euro 96 so Vastic has now chosen to play for the country where he plays his club soccer (Strum Graz).

Croatia coach Ciro Blazevic said he didn't like Vastic's decision to play for another country but also can't blame him for wanting to play internationally.

The Croatia team will be unable to accommodate Karic (Torino), Spehar (Brugge) and Kozniku (Cannes) all of whom also deserve to play but because of squad size restrictions none can go to Euro 96.

Blazevic added: "Croatia is facing a boom in soccer players. I just hope players can be patient and wait, as everyone's time will come to play for their country."

SKOKO GOAL AGAINST HAJDUK

Australian midfielder Josip Skoko scored on debut for his new club FC Split in a recent friendly 1-2 loss to his former

club Hajduk Split.

Skoko beat three defenders before firing a thunderbolt past Hajduk goalkeeper Tonci Gabric.

It's believed that Hajduk Split dropped Skoko from its squad because of the arrival of other players, however Skoko's new found form just might persuade Hajduk coach Mirko Jozic to take him back.

■ Aljoshia Asanovic made his comeback in this match for Hajduk after his unsuccessful stint in Spain and is proving to be the leader of the team once again.

■ Niko Ceko made his debut after transferring from FC Zagreb and was very impressive at the back.

■ Australian Steve Horvat made an appearance in the 49th minute as substitute for teenager Vuica and did enough to warrant a full match for the next game.

ADZIC BACK IN CROATIA

Zeljko Adzic, the former Melbourne Knights midfielder, is back in Croatia and is now playing for H. Dragovoljac in Croatia's Second Division.

People might remember Adzic's deadly midfield combination with Branko



Josip Skoko: Scored against old club on debut.

Milosevic and Josip Biskic for the Knights in the early 1990s.

After leaving Australia he played for Dinamo Zagreb alongside Croatian internationals Boban, Suker and Mladenovic but his career went down hill from there.

He played two seasons in Spain with Hercules and is now back in Croatia.

TUDJMAN NO TO DINAMO

Croatian leader Dr Franjo Tudjman has said no to any chance of Croatia Zagreb reverting back to its old name Dinamo Zagreb.

He said while he is in power this so called communist name will not be used.

Dinamo fans even stormed one of his meetings chanting Dinamo, Dinamo but the Croatian leader was not amused.

The Croatian club is known the world over as Dinamo Zagreb. Croatia Zagreb feels like a new club to the fans.

IN BRIEF...

According to Italian media speculation players most likely to replace Gianluca Vialli at Juventus are Alen Boksic, (Lazio and Croatia), Martin Dahlin (Sweden) and Daniel Fonseca (Roma and Uruguay).

Adrian Kozniku the Albanian/Croatian wants to go back to Hajduk Split as soon as possible.

His French club Cannes are doing badly and many are putting the blame on him including Bosnian coach Safet Susic.

Kozniku also said he is home sick.

The coach of Cercle Brugge, Croatian Josip Tipuric has taken the team to fourth place in the Belgium League, the clubs best position in over five years.

Former Hajduk and Marseille great Josip Sroblar has been asked to coach Marseille. The 1971 Golden Best Winner (scored 44 goals with Marseille in one season) is keen to take over at Marseille.

But that then means leaving the coaching ranks of Croat club FC Rijeka.

Krasimir Vulic of Hajduk Split is one week away from starting to play again after a broken leg he suffered in October last year. A very long recovery.

Barcelona's Robert Prosinecki has got a new tattoo on his right leg. It's a lion which is to protect him from injury, well that's what his Spanish teammates say. As they were the one's who told him to get it.

Prosinecki who is a chain smoker has also been forced to quit in order to be more match fit.

For more Croatian sports news, tune into CRO 2000 every Wednesday night at 8.45pm on Sunday, Radio 98.5FM.



MINNOWS MARCH ON IN FRANCE

Fifth division Blenod continued its giant-killing in the French Cup when it beat first division Le Havre in a penalty shootout last Wednesday.

Blenod won 4-3 on penalties after the second round match had been deadlocked at 1-1 after extra time.

The tiny club from Eastern France, which ousted first division Bastia in the first round, fell behind to a Christophe Lagrange goal after 35 minutes.

But Blenod kept battling away and equalised five minutes from the end of normal time.

Montpellier beat third division Istres 2-1 in the other second round match.

TIGER CUP FOR SOUTH EAST ASIA

Southeast Asia last week announced a new biannual tournament for eight national teams aimed at becoming the regional championship.

Singapore-based Asia Pacific Breweries (APB) said it would put \$A1.33 million into the inaugural competition scheduled for September with Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam vying for the Tiger Cup.

There will be \$A200,000 in prize money, with the winning side getting \$A106,300.

The cup, named after the brewery's best-known beer, should help "make real our dream for a true regional soccer championship", Southeast Asia soccer chief Worrawi Makudi told a news conference.

The inaugural tournament will be held in Singapore in September, with the eight teams divided into two round-robin groups and the two top teams in each going through to the semi-finals.

Previously, the regional soccer champion has been decided at the Southeast Asia Games, a mini-Olympics for the region. At the last games, held in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai in December, Thailand won the title.

NO CHANGE AT TOP IN PORTUGAL

Porto kept its runaway lead in the Portuguese championship last Saturday when Sporting and Benfica lost ground by drawing 0-0 to stay third and fourth respectively.

Benfica's best chance came in the 61st minute when captain Joao Pinto swept unmarked through the area only to have his powerful shot punched over the bar by Sporting goalkeeper Paulo Costinha.

Unbeaten Porto, who had salvaged a point with a 1-1 draw at second-placed Boavista on Friday, remain 13 points ahead.

METZ FOUR POINTS AWAY

Shocked leader Paris St Germain slumped to its third consecutive defeat in the French league last Saturday, losing to Strasbourg 1-0.

A meeting between players and club officials after PSG's 3-2 home defeat to Montpellier the previous Sunday did not raise the Parisians' spirits.

PSG sank to a converted penalty scored by international defender Franck Leboeuf three minutes before the break.

Despite the loss, its fifth this season, PSG retained its three-point lead over second placed Auxerre, who crashed in Rennes 2-1. But Auxerre has a game in hand.

The main rival for the Parisians may, however, be Metz, who beat bottom-of-the-table Martigues 2-0 to shoot back into third spot in the standings, four points behind the leader but with three games in hand.

Against Strasbourg, who had recovered two key strikers, Russia's Alexander Mostovoi and Marc Keller, PSG showed no real sign of improvement since their defeats in Monaco and against Montpellier.

The Strasbourg penalty was awarded for a foul by Stephane Mahe on Strasbourg striker Gerald Baticle, was highly deserved.

Third position not good enough

Sporting Lisbon coach, Carlos Queiros became the 19th casualty to leave the giant Portuguese soccer club since 1982, when he was sacked on the weekend after a board meeting.

Queiros coached Portugal to the 1989 and 1991 junior World Cups.

He had been in charge at Sporting for just over two years.

Sporting Lisbon, Portugal first division champion in 1982 under Englishman Malcolm Allison, is joint third in this year's championship 14 points adrift of leaders Porto.

Parisian coach Luis Fernandez, whose position may soon be in jeopardy, attempted a ploy in the second half by fielding four strikers, to no effect.

PSG's hopes were quashed with 15 minutes left in the match when striker Pascal Nouma was sent off for foul play.

Auxerre failed to seize the

opportunity to take the lead. The team from Burgundy bowed to Rennes goals scored by Sylvain Wiltord in the 27th minute and Swiss Marco Grassi from a 68th minute penalty.

Metz' victory came thanks to a double from striker Patrick Mboma, who was released by PSG at the end of last season.



ROMANIA TAKE KINGS CUP 2-1

Romania scored in the ninth minute and went on to beat European champions Denmark 2-1 to win the four-nation Kings Cup tournament in Bangkok last Friday.

The Romanians dominated from the start and Gabriel Popescu rammed in a loose ball in the ninth minute.

Popescu's second put his team ahead 2-0 just before the half-time.

Denmark battled back in the second half but found a solid Romanian defence difficult to break down.

With both teams tiring, Steffen Hojer scored a consolation goal in the closing seconds.

Thailand won the earlier third place 5-2 against a Finnish team which appeared sapped of energy by the heat at central Bangkok's National Stadium.

DRUG TESTS TO ROCKET IN ENGLAND

The fight against drugs in English soccer was stepped up last week by a proposal to increase tests to 500 a season.

English FA chief executive Graham Kelly said after meeting the players' union and Sports Council: "We are determined to tackle the drugs problem forcefully. Players tempted by drugs must now realise that the threat of being caught will be greater than ever."

Last season there were 12 positive results from 272 tests. Two more have come to light this year.

The plan needs approval

from the premier league, English League and the FA's executive committee.

REF NEVER REFUSED THE LADIES

Former top soccer referee Howard King was last Wednesday banned from any involvement in the game for 10 years after telling a newspaper how clubs tried to bribe him with prostitutes and expensive gifts to influence vital European ties.

King, who recently retired through illness and a knee injury told England's News of the World: "I never said no to the ladies". But he insisted he had never swung a match.

He said women had been sent to his hotel bedroom "about 12 to 15 times" before European ties.

The Welsh-based official also told the paper, Britain's best-selling Sunday paper, that he ended an Arsenal-Manchester United Premiership clash early so he could return to Wales for a meeting.

King, a senior referee for 14 years who retired in 1994 after taking charge of 500 League games, 44 European ties and 20 internationals, was handed the ban by the Football Association of Wales.

GUNNERS BOSS ESCAPES

Arsenal manager Bruce Rioch has escaped punishment for a touchline flare-up during his club's 2-0 English League Cup quarter-final win over Newcastle last month.

But he was warned by the Football Association (F.A.) last week that he would be charged if he stepped out of line again.

Rioch, was clearly regarded as the main protagonist in what he described as "an aggressive verbal confrontation" with Newcastle's assistant manager Terry McDermott.

The pair had to be kept apart by Newcastle boss Kevin Keegan and stewards during a heated clash after Newcastle's David Ginola had been controversially dismissed.

The French player later had his caution for alleged diving set aside, though his dismissal for a confrontation with Arsenal defender Lee Dixon remained in force.

Both Rioch and McDermott were asked to submit their "observations" of the incident to an F.A. disciplinary commission. "We accepted McDermott's explanation that he was effectively trying to keep the peace and we will be taking no further action against him," said spokesman Steve Double.

OKON OUT FOR SEASON

It took only a moment on a bleak Belgian Sunday for Socceroo Paul Okon's career to go from its highest point to a pain-filled low.

Three weeks ago the Club Brugge sweeper was awarded the Soulier d'Or (Golden Boot) as the Belgian League's outstanding player for 1995.

Earlier this month his place in the Australian team to play Scotland in Glasgow next month was confirmed.

Then on February 11, late in a top of the table clash with Anderlecht, his cruciate ligament went.

Now he's out for the rest of the season, faces a long rehabilitation and may have jeopardised his hopes for a transfer from Brugge.

"It's part of the game," Okon said from his hospital bed in Antwerp, where he underwent an operation on Thursday.

"I'm professional enough to know I'll get back to 100 per cent."

Okon, who came to the canal-laced Belgian tourist

city of Brugge five seasons ago as a 19-year-old from Marconi, said his leg locked twice during the Anderlecht game.

"When it happened a third time and my knee gave way towards the end I knew there was damage.

"It was just coincidence. There was no clash with another player."

He was discharged from hospital last Saturday and will start a long rehabilitation program in about a fortnight.

He plans to be running and swimming slowly in five to six weeks and to "just take it from there".

Okon will stay on in Brugge to support his club until the May 12 end of season. Thanks to its 2-1 win over Anderlecht, it's now five points clear with 11 matches to play.

He also hopes to go to Glasgow to support the Soccerooos.

"It would have been nice to have been playing," he said. "It would have been my first international out of Australia for a long time."

When the Belgian season

is over he'll return, as previously planned, to Australia for holidays — except now it'll be more of a working holiday.

"I'll have to put in a lot of work at home for the new season, which isn't the way I'd planned it," he said.

Okon has let it be known he's interested in transferring from Brugge to a more high profile league.

He is sure he is now a more complete player than when he arrived and feels it's time his playing horizons were widened.

"I just have ambition," he said. "I think I'm able to do it. I want to go as far as I can."

He said he had no particular country in mind: "Any professional competition at a high level would be good enough for me."

Okon hoped his injury would not harm his transfer chances.

"People know who I am by now," he said. "And the operation is done regularly and doesn't usually cause real problems."



Paul Okon: Still wants to get away from Brugge.

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Chelsea.....1	West Ham.....2
Middlesbrough.....1	Bolton.....4
Sheffield Wednesday.....1	QPR.....3

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Charlton.....1	Sheffield Utd.....1
Crystal Palace.....4	Watford.....0
Grimsby.....0	Reading.....0
Leicester.....1	Port Vale.....1
Luton.....1	Millwall.....0
Norwich.....2	Wolverhampton.....3
Portsmouth.....2	Sunderland.....2
Southend.....1	Derby.....2
Stoke.....1	Birmingham.....0
West Bromwich.....1	Tranmere.....1

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Bournemouth.....1	Blackpool.....0
Brentford.....2	Bristol City.....2
Brighton.....2	Crewe.....2
Bristol Rovers.....1	Rotherham.....0
Burnley.....3	York.....3
Chesterfield.....3	Wycombe.....1
Oxford.....3	Walsall.....2
Peterborough.....6	Carlisle.....1
Stockport.....2	Notts County.....0
Swansea.....0	Hull.....0
Brentford.....2	Bristol City.....2

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Barnet.....5	Wigan.....0
Bury.....7	Lincoln.....1
Chester.....3	Scunthorpe.....0
Darlington.....1	Mansfield.....1
Doncaster.....0	Plymouth.....0
Exeter.....1	Cambridge.....0
Gillingham.....1	Hereford.....1
Leyton Orient.....2	Northampton.....0
Preston.....2	Colchester.....0
Rochdale.....1	Fulham.....1
Scarborough.....1	Cardiff.....0
Torquay.....0	Hartlepool.....0

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Clydebank.....1	Dumbarton.....0
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SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Queen of the South.....2	Stranraer.....1
Clyde.....2	Berwick.....1

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Albion.....2	Cowdenbeath.....0
Alloa.....0	Arbroath.....3
Brechin.....0	Ross County.....0
East Stirling.....0	Livingston.....3

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dundee Utd	25	13	7	5	45	28	46
Greenock Morton	23	14	3	6	39	24	45
Dunfermline	22	14	2	6	43	22	44
St Johnstone	25	12	6	7	39	26	42
Dundee	25	11	7	7	40	33	40
St Mirren	26	9	7	10	34	36	34
Airdrieonians	25	7	9	9	29	34	30
Clydebank	26	7	8	11	29	38	29
Hamilton	24	5	5	14	24	37	20
Dumbarton	25	3	2	20	19	63	11

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Stirling	24	15	7	2	54	21	52
East Fife	24	14	6	4	31	19	48
Berwick	25	12	5	8	42	28	41
Stenhousemuir	24	10	6	8	41	32	36
Stranraer	25	6	14	5	27	28	32
Clyde	22	6	9	7	24	20	27
Queen of the South	24	6	8	10	34	44	26
Forfar	24	7	5	12	20	40	26
Ayr	23	5	8	10	20	29	23
Montrose	23	2	4	17	20	52	10

ENGLISH FA CUP

FIFTH ROUND

Wimbledon v Huddersfield	Wednesday, February 28
Southampton v Swindon	Wednesday, February 28

SCOTTISH FA CUP

FOURTH ROUND

Forfar v Airdrieonians	Tuesday, February 27
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SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Livingston	24	13	5	6	31	16	44
Brechin	25	12	8	5	28	13	44
Arbroath	24	11	8	5	33	28	41
Ross County	24	9	12	3	41	25	39
Caledonian	22	10	7	5	48	23	37
Cowdenbeath	24	9	4	11	34	40	31
Queen's Park	24	6	8	10	27	32	26
East Stirling	24	6	6	12	36	48	24
Alloa	25	4	7	14	18	44	19
Albion	22	6	1	15	27	54	19

ENGLISH FA CUP

FOURTH ROUND

Swindon.....1	Oldham.....0
Ipswich.....1	Walsall.....0
Bolton.....0	Leeds.....0
Wimbledon.....1	Middlesbrough.....1
Oxford United.....0	Nottingham Forest.....3
Crewe.....2	Southampton.....3
Port Vale.....2	Everton.....1
Manchester City.....2	Coventry.....1
Grimsby.....3	West Ham.....0
Shrewsbury.....0	Liverpool.....4

FIFTH ROUND

Manchester United.....2	Manchester City.....1
Huddersfield.....2	Wimbledon.....2
Ipswich.....1	Aston Villa.....3
Swindon.....1	Southampton.....1

Playing Monday:
Nottingham Forest v Tottenham

ENGLISH LEAGUE CUP

SEMI-FINAL, FIRST LEG

Arsenal.....2	Aston Villa.....2
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SCOTTISH FA CUP THIRD ROUND

Dunfermline.....3	St Mirren.....0
Berwick.....1	Dundee United.....2
East Fife.....1	Caledonian Thistle.....1
(after extra time, Caledonian 3-1 on penalties)	
Greenock Morton.....1	Montrose.....1
(2-3 after replay)	
Berwick.....1	Dundee United.....2
Montrose.....3	Greenock Morton.....2

FOURTH ROUND

Clyde.....1	Rangers.....4
Airdrieonians.....2	Forfar.....2
Dundee Utd.....1	Dunfermline.....0
Celtic.....2	Raith.....0
Kilmarnock.....1	Hearts.....2
St Johnstone.....3	Montrose.....0
Stenhousemuir.....0	Caledonian.....1
Stirling.....0	Aberdeen.....2

FRENCH LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINAL

Guingamp.....1	Metz.....2
Lyon.....1	Cannes.....0

FRENCH CUP SECOND ROUND

Montpellier.....2	Istres.....1
Blenod.....1	Le Havre.....1
(after extra time, Blenod won 4-3 on penalties)	

SPANISH CUP

QUARTER-FINAL, SECOND LEG

Valencia.....2	Sevilla.....0
(Valencia win 3-1 on aggregate)	
Zaragoza.....1	Espanyol.....1
(1-1 on aggregate, Espanyol win on away goals)	
Barcelona.....3	Numancia.....1
(Barcelona win 5-3 on aggregate)	
Atletico Madrid.....3	Tenerife.....0
(Atletico win 3-0 on aggregate)	

BANGKOK'S KING'S CUP

— February 13 —

Thailand.....1	Denmark.....3
(halftime 0-0)	
Scorers: Denmark - Peter Rasmussen (55th), Erik Bo Andersen (69th), Cristian Lonstrup (84th)	
Thailand - Kiatisuk Senamuang (67th)	
Finland.....1	Romania.....1
(halftime 1-1)	
Scorers: Finland - Jukka Koskinen (15)	
Romania - Julian Sebastian Filipescu (36).	

Page 25: Final match report

PORTUGUESE CUP SIX ROUND REPLAY

Benfica.....3	Farense.....0
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FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL

— February 15 —

Chile 4 Peru 0 (halftime 2-0)
Scorers: Marcelo Salas 5m, Pablo Galdamez 22m pen, Rodrigo Goldberg 47m 60m.

NORTHERN IRISH LEAGUE

— February 17 —

Bangor.....0	Ards.....1
Crusaders.....1	Cliftonville.....1
Glenavon.....7	Portadown.....0
Linfield.....2	Glentoran.....0

TABLE

Crusaders	20	12	3	5	30	21	39
Portadown	19	9	6	4	39	29	33
Glenavon	19	10	3	6	34	18	33
Glentoran	20	9	5	6	40	28	32
Linfield	20	8	6	6	26	24	22
Ards	20	5	5	10	23	29	20
Cliftonville	20	4	7	9	17	35	19
Bangor	20	3	3	14	13	38	12

IRISH PREMIER DIVISION

Bohemians.....1	Cork City.....0
Drogheda United.....1	Shelbourne.....3
St Patricks Athletic.....2	Shamrock Rovers.....2
Athlone Town.....1	Galway United.....0
Derry City.....4	Sligo Rovers.....0
Uni College Dublin.....0	Dundalk.....0

TABLE

St Patricks Athletic	24	14	6	4	35	26	48
Shelbourne	24	12	9	3	32	16	45
Bohemians	23	13	5	5	48	23	44
Sligo Rovers	24	11	6	7	31	28	39
Dundalk	24	9	7	8	33	31	34
Derry City	22	9	6	7	36	26	33
Cork City	23	8	7	8	24	25	31
Shamrock Rovers	23	8	6	9	18	24	30
Uni College Dublin	24	8	5	11	23	25	29
Drogheda United	23	5	7	11	24	34	22
Athlone Town	24	4	4	16	25	47	16
Galway United	24	3	6	15	20	44	15

TURKEY FIRST DIVISION

Besiktas.....3	Antalyaspor.....0
Ankaragucu.....0	Fenerbahce.....3
Altay.....1	Vanspor.....1
Gaziantepspor.....1	Istanbulspor.....6
Bursaspor.....1	Trabzonspor.....2
Kocaelispor.....3	Samsunspor.....1
Galatasaray.....5	Kayserispor.....0
Eskisehirspor.....0	Karsiyaka.....2
Denizlispor.....3	Genclerbirliigi.....0

TABLE

Trabzonspor	20	16	3	1	48	14	51
Fenerbahce	20	16	3	1	45	12	51
Besiktas	20	14	3	3	51	22	45
Galatasaray	20	14	2	4	46	22	44
Kocaelispor	20	8	8	4	30	24	32
Gaziantepspor	20	7	7	6	25	22	28
Antalyaspor	20	7	5	8	29	35	26
Genclerbirliigi	20	6	7	7	27	32	25
Bursaspor	20	6	6	8	36	32	24
Samsunspor	20	7	2	11	25	28	23
Denizlispor	20	5	8	7	23	29	23
Ankaragucu	20	6	4	10	22	36	22
Karsiyaka	20	6	4	10	18	36	22
Altay	20	6	3	11	21	39	21
Istanbulspor	20	5	5	10	29	33	20
Vanspor	20	3	6	11	13	31	15
Eskisehirspor	20	4	1	15	24	43	13
Kayserispor	20	2	7	11	20	42	13

YUGOSLAVIA LEAGUE

Division A

Cukaricki.....1	Partizan.....2
Red Star.....1	Sloboda.....0
Becej.....1	Rad.....0
Mladost (L).....4	Radnicki (N).....1
Proleter.....0	Vojvodina.....2

TABLE

Partizan	1	1	0	0	2	1	21
Red Star	1	1	0	0	1	0	19
Vojvodina	1	1	0	0	2	0	16
Becej	1	1	0	0	1	0	11
Cukaricki	1	0	0	1	1	2	11
Mladost (L)	1	1	0	0	4	1	9
Radnicki (N)	1	0	0	1	1	4	9
Rad	1	0	0	1	0	1	8
Proleter	1	0	0	1	0	2	6
Sloboda	1	0	0	1	0	1	5

Division B

Obilic.....1	Zemun.....0
OFK Beograd.....0	Radnicki (B).....0
Mladost (BJ).....1	Hajduk.....2
Buducnost.....2	Loznica.....1
Borac.....1	Napredak.....0

TABLE

Hajduk	1	1	0	0	2	1	9
Obilic	1	1	0	0	1	0	8
Radnicki (B)	1	0	1	0	0	0	8
Zemun	1	0	0	1	0	1	7
Buducnost	1	1	0	0	2	1	6
Borac	1	1	0	0	1	0	5
OFK Beograd	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
Mladost (BJ)	1	0	0	1	1	2	4
Napredak	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Loznica	1	0	0	1	1	2	2

NOTE: All teams in divisions A and B start the Spring season with bonus points awarded at the end of the Autumn season of the 1995-96 championship.

PORTUGUESE FIRST DIVISION

— February 17 —

Felgueiras.....0	Tirsense.....1
Salgueiros.....1	Guimaraes.....2
Uniao Leiria.....1	Belenenses.....0
Campomaiorense.....2	Chaves.....1
Braga.....3	Leca.....0
Maritimo.....1	Estrela Amadora.....1
Benfica.....0	Sporting.....0
Boavista.....1	Porto.....1

TABLE

Porto	23	19	4
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WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

GERMANY FIRST DIVISION

— February 17 —

Bayern Munich	1	Karlsruhe	4
VfB Stuttgart	2	1860 Munich	3
Borussia M'gladbach	P	Kaiserslautern	P
Werder Bremen	P	Hamburg	P
St Pauli	P	Freiburg	P
Eintracht Frankfurt	1	Uerdingen	0

TABLE

Borussia Dortmund	18	12	5	1	45	21	41
Bayern Munich	19	12	2	5	38	24	38
Hamburg	18	7	8	3	31	24	29
Borussia M'gladbach	18	9	2	7	28	31	29
VfB Stuttgart	18	7	7	4	40	34	28
Bayer Leverkusen	17	6	7	4	22	15	25
Hansa Rostock	17	6	7	4	28	22	25
Schalke	17	6	7	4	21	23	25
1860 Munich	19	6	6	7	27	28	24
Eintracht Frankfurt	19	6	6	7	31	34	24
Karlsruhe	19	5	7	7	28	31	22
St Pauli	18	5	5	8	27	31	20
Cologne	18	3	9	6	18	22	18
Kaiserslautern	18	3	9	6	19	25	18
Werder Bremen	17	3	8	6	17	23	17
Freiburg	18	4	5	9	12	23	17
Uerdingen	18	2	8	8	15	23	14
Fortuna Duesseldorf	18	2	8	8	16	29	14

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

— February 17 —

Lens	2	Nantes	1
Cannes	1	Bastia	0
Queugnon	2	Guingamp	2
Le Havre	4	Lille	1
Lyon	1	Nice	0
Metz	2	Martignes	0
Monaco	2	St Etienne	0
Montpellier	3	Bordeaux	0
Rennes	2	Auxerre	1
Strasbourg	1	Paris SG	0

TABLE

Paris St Germain	28	14	9	5	50	25	51
Auxerre	27	15	3	9	44	25	48
Metz	25	13	8	4	26	16	47
Monaco	27	13	7	7	40	27	46
Lens	28	11	13	4	32	21	46
Montpellier	27	12	7	8	40	32	43
Guingamp	27	11	10	6	26	20	43
Rennes	27	11	9	7	33	31	42
Nantes	28	10	10	8	32	31	40
Bastia	28	11	5	12	37	37	38
Strasbourg	27	9	10	8	35	28	36
Nice	28	9	7	12	29	31	34
Lyon	27	7	12	8	31	31	33
Bordeaux	28	9	5	14	31	40	32
Le Havre	28	8	8	12	26	35	32
Lille	28	6	10	12	21	37	28
Cannes	27	7	6	14	29	40	27
St Etienne	26	5	11	10	27	40	26
Queugnon	27	4	11	12	19	36	23
Martignes	28	6	3	19	22	47	21

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

— February 18 —

Harelbeke	2	Seraing	1
Cercle Brugge	1	Molenbeek	1
Antwerp	1	St Truiden	1
Beveren	3	Club Brugge	5
Anderlecht	3	KV Mechelen	1
Standard	2	Aalst	1
Gent	1	SC Charleroi	0
Lommel	2	Ekeren	1
Lierse	1	Waregem	1

TABLE

Club Brugge	24	17	5	2	60	23	56
Anderlecht	24	16	3	5	63	25	51
Lierse	24	10	8	6	38	30	38
Cercle Brugge	24	9	10	5	37	31	37
Standard Liege	24	9	9	6	35	28	36

Molenbeek	24	9	9	6	27	24	36
Ekeren	24	9	7	8	37	30	34
Charleroi	24	8	9	7	41	39	33
Mechelen	24	9	5	10	28	35	32
Lommel	24	9	5	10	27	35	32
Ghent	24	8	8	8	30	35	32
Harelbeke	24	9	3	12	28	35	30
Antwerp	24	8	6	10	30	32	30
Aalst	24	7	7	10	33	35	28
Sint-Truiden	24	7	6	11	29	43	27
Seraing	24	6	4	14	29	51	22
Beveren	24	4	7	13	23	39	19
Waregem	24	3	7	14	21	48	16

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

— February 18 —

Athinaikos	1	Apollon	1
Kalamata	1	Iraklis	0
Larissa	0	Edesaikos	2
Olympiakos	4	Aris	0
Panionios	1	Panathinaikos	3
Xanthi	0	OFI	2
AEK	3	Ethnikos	1
PAOK	1	Paniliakos	0
Ionikos	1	Panahaiki	1

TABLE

AEK	21	17	2	2	56	14	53
Panathinaikos	21	16	4	1	48	13	52
Olympiakos	21	15	5	1	51	17	50
OFI	21	12	3	6	41	33	39
Edesaikos	21	9	5	7	32	35	32
Iraklis	21	8	5	8	27	26	29
Kalamata	21	7	6	8	28	34	27
Ionikos	21	7	5	9	27	30	26
Apollon	21	6	7	8	30	30	25
Athinaikos	21	7	4	10	18	29	25
Panahaiki	21	7	4	10	19	30	25
Paniliakos	21	6	6	9	26	29	24
Xanthi	21	6	6	9	26	34	24

Aris	21	6	6	9	22	30	24
PAOK	21	6	7	8	25	27	22
Panionios	21	4	4	13	23	38	16
Larissa	21	4	4	13	16	43	16
Ethnikos	21	3	3	15	21	46	12

Note: PAOK deducted three points after crowd violence.

ALBANIAN FIRST DIVISION

— February 18 —

Olimpik	1	Kastrioti	0
Flamurtari	1	Shkumbini	0
Tirana	4	Vllaznia	1
Sopoti	4	Tomorri	1
Albpetrol	0	Apolonia	0
Elbasani	0	Partizani	0
Beselidhja	2	Skenderbeu	0
Teuta	3	Laci	0
Besa	0	Shqiponja	1

TABLE

Teuta	20	13	5	2	31	11	34
Tirana	20	11	5	4	29	14	31
Flamurtari	20	11	3	6	26	18	28
Olimpik	20	11	3	6	29	16	27
Partizani	20	9	5	6	23	16	27
Besa	20	10	4	6	21	13	26
Apolonia	20	8	6	6	28	21	24
Shqiponja	20	7	4	9	18	20	21
Sopoti	20	7	5	8	19	20	20
Albpetrol	20	7	5	8	17	20	20
Tomorri	20	6	7	7	18	21	19
Shkumbini	20	5	7	8	15	21	17
Vllaznia	20	6	6	8	16	24	17
Elbasani	20	5	6	9	14	22	17
Beselidhja	20	6	4	10	10	21	17
Laci	20	6	3	11	23	32	15
Kastrioti	20	5	4	11	17	26	15
Skenderbeu	20	5	3	12	18	36	13

Venable stand-ins rejected

The English Football Association (F.A.) last week dismissed a suggestion that soccer assistants Bryan Robson and Don Howe (pictured) could run the England team later this year while Terry Venables engaged in his various legal battles.

According to the News of the World, Middlesbrough boss Robson and Howe are prepared to take temporary charge of the squad in the northern autumn.

Twenty-two England internationals have also put their signatures to a petition to persuade the F.A. to keep Venables as England coach.

But F.A. spokesman Steve Double said: "Terry's situation is completely unchanged."

Pressed on the possibility of Robson taking over as a stand-in during Venables' enforced absence, he added: "I can only refer to what Graham Kelly has



said in recent weeks."

Last week, Kelly, the F.A.'s chief executive, said it was clear Venables had decided to resign and that there were to be no further efforts to persuade him to change his mind.

Robson is quoted as saying: "Don and I could look after things. It wouldn't be a problem provided the situation was clear."

If Robson and Howe did stand-in, Venables would arguably be free to return to the job when his legal battles are over and lead England's bid to reach the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

Venables's legal problems include various disputes with Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar and the defence of the action by the Department of Trade and Industry to disqualify him from acting as a company director.

Football fans weird obsessions

It's soccer, not cricket, that's spawned England's truly barmy army.

The catalogue of obsessions listed in the magazine Total Football shows how the sport can turn otherwise sane fans into fruitcakes.

Perhaps the strangest is Dave Downs, a 54-year-old primary school teacher whose love affair with First Division Reading has not always been required.

Dave once offered the manager his entire life savings if he could make a two-minute appearance as a substitute.

"It was a meaningless end-of-season game, but they still wouldn't let me play," he mourned. & Dave's weirdest coup came

after Reading beat Luton in a vital match in 1988.

He tried to buy one of the player's shirts, but no-one would sell.

"So I got the water the laundry woman used to wash the kit," he said.

"I've got it in a milk bottle in a display cabinet at my home."

Ted Ditton is equally passionate about West Ham.

He's turned his van into a claret and blue shrine to the East London Premier Division club.

Its sides are covered with 70 players' names and another 90 are to be added as the Hammers role of honour is extended back to the early 1950s.

Inside is a collection of teddy

bears, flags, scarves, footballs and 300 photos.

Some obsessions are more general. Nina McKenna, for example, combines her passions for teddy bears and Scottish football.

She's knitted teddies in the club 'colours' of all 40 Scottish league clubs and gone to all the grounds so she can photograph the right bear in the right setting.

Andy Marwick's real passion is pies. He's travelled to more than 700 English and Scottish football grounds to watch the matches and taste-test the pies.

He keeps a notebook to record each pie's salient features and says he'll eventually write a book about his researches.

1998 World Cup

European Qualifying Draw

GROUP 6

1996

Apr 24	Yugoslavia	v	Faroe Islands
June 2	Yugoslavia	v	Malta
Aug 31	Faroe Islands	v	Slovakia
Sep 4	Faroe Islands	v	Spain
Sep 18	Czech Republic	v	Malta
Sep 22	Slovakia	v	Malta
Oct 6	Faroe Islands	v	Yugoslavia
Oct 9	Czech Republic	v	Spain
Oct 23	Slovakia	v	Faroe Islands
Nov 10	Yugoslavia	v	Czech Republic
Nov 13	Spain	v	Slovakia
Dec 14 or 15	Spain	v	Yugoslavia
Dec 18	Malta	v	Spain

1997

Feb 12	Spain	v	Malta
Mar 31	Malta	v	Slovakia
Apr 2	Czech Republic	v	Yugoslavia
Apr 29 or 30	Yugoslavia	v	Spain
	Malta	v	Faroe Islands
May 21	Slovakia	v	Czech Republic
June 7 or 8	Yugoslavia	v	Slovakia
	Faroe Islands	v	Malta
	Spain	v	Czech Republic
Aug 20	Czech Republic	v	Faroe Islands
Sep 6	Faroe Islands	v	Czech Republic
Sep 10	Slovakia	v	Yugoslavia
Sep 24	Malta	v	Czech Republic
	Slovakia	v	Spain
Oct 11	Malta	v	Yugoslavia
	Czech Republic	v	Slovakia
	Spain	v	Faroe Islands



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



A Maradona in J-League

Japan's J-League newcomers, Avispa Fukuoka, were recently in Australia for three weeks conducting their pre-season training.

They played four friendly matches, two against the Japan national team, one against Sydney United and the last one against St George.

Avispa boasts several South American stars, including former Argentine international Pedro Troglio, former Argentine youth international, Hugo Maradona and Carlos Mayor, Paraguayan international striker Richard Baez, and

former Argentine youth coach and Carlos Bilardo's assistant coach Carlos Pachame in 1986 and 1990.

Troglio began his football career with Argentine giant River Plate while Hugo Maradona and Mayor started theirs with Argentinos Juniors.

Carlos Pachame was one of the stars of Estudiantes de La Plata, winners of the Libertadores Cup in 1968, '69 and '70, and the Inter Continental Cup in 1986 before he was transferred to the most popular club in Argentina: Boca Juniors.



hugo MARADONA

NAME: Hugo Maradona
DATE OF BIRTH: 09.05.1969
BIRTHPLACE: Buenos Aires, Argentina
PREVIOUS CLUBS: PJM (Japan)
POSITION: Midfielder
NICKNAME: Turquito
MARITAL STATUS: Married
OCCUPATION: Professional football player
BEST ASPECT OF YOUR GAME: Vision
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Ferrer (Barcelona, Spain)
BEST PLAYER IN JAPAN: Kazu (Verdy)
FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYER: Diego Maradona
FAVOURITE OVERSEAS CLUB: Real Madrid (Spain)
EUROPE '96 TIP? Italy
HONOURS: South American Champions, Argentine Youth team in 1985
AMBITIONS FOR 1996: To win the J-League with Avispa
AMBITIONS AFTER RETIRING: Enjoy time with family
MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT: Winning the South American Youth Championship in 1985.
HOBBIES OUTSIDE SOCCER: Family
BEST GOAL YOU'VE SEEN: Diego Maradona against England in Mexico '86.
FAVOURITE FOOD: Wiener Schnitzel with fried eggs
FAVOURITE DRINK: Beer
CAR YOU DRIVE: Suzuki Escudo
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Any football show
FAVOURITE MOVIE: Midnight Express
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Al Pacino and Leonor Benedetto (Argentina)
PREFERRED MUSIC: Cumbia
LEAST PREFERRED MUSIC: Classic
FAVOURITE COMEDIAN: Alberto Olmedo (Argentine)
SPECIAL ADVICE TO YOUNG PLAYERS: To follow coaches advice
WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET: Michael Jordan

Back from suspension out again next game

Midfielder Giovanni, one of Brazil's most exciting players, scored two goals to inspire Santos to a 3-0 win at Ferroviaria in the Sao Paulo championship last Saturday.

The result kept Santos in with a chance of finishing in the top two of the first stage of the competition and earning a place in the final round.

Giovanni, who inspired his team to the runners-up spot in last year's Brazilian championship, scored with a superb left-foot shot in the first half and a close range effort in the second. An own goal by Dede had given Santos, fifth in the table, the lead.

But Giovanni, suspended from Santos' previous game after a sending off, spoiled his performance by receiving his third yellow card, which earns him another one-match ban.

Only 61 people, one of the smallest attendances in the history of the competition, watched Novorizontino beat XV de Jau 4-0.

Palmeiras, who beat Sao Paulo 2-0 on Wednesday, lead the first stage on goal difference over Portuguesa, who beat America 3-1.

The top two teams in the first stage and the top two in the second stage go into the final play-off.

SAO PAULO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

America.....2	Sao Paulo.....3
Guarani.....1	Portuguesa.....1
Santos.....2	Corinthians.....2
Palmeiras.....4	Juventus.....1
Rio Branco.....2	Novorizontino.....1
Botafogo.....1	Uniao Sao Joao.....1
XV de Jau.....4	Ferroviaria.....3
Aracatuba.....1	Mogi Mirim.....1
Sao Paulo.....0	Palmeiras.....2
Ferroviaria.....0	Santos.....3
Juventus.....1	Botafogo/R Preto.....0
Mogi Mirim.....1	Rio Branco.....0
Novorizontino.....4	XV de Jau.....0
Portuguesa.....3	America/Sao Jose.....1
Uniao Sao Joao.....4	Aracatuba.....1

TABLE

Palmeiras	6	5	1	0	22	3	16
Portuguesa	6	5	1	0	15	5	16
Corinthians	6	4	2	0	16	4	14
Sao Paulo	6	4	1	1	13	6	13
Santos	6	3	1	2	12	9	10
Mogi Mirim	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Juventus	6	3	0	3	6	8	9
Novorizontino	6	2	2	2	9	11	8
XV de Jau	6	2	0	4	5	15	6
Uniao Sao Joao	6	1	3	2	9	8	6
Rio Branco	6	1	2	3	5	9	5
Aracatuba	6	1	2	3	5	13	5
America	5	1	1	3	6	9	4
Botafogo	6	0	3	3	4	7	3
Ferroviaria	6	0	2	4	5	16	2
Guarani	6	0	2	4	3	15	2

pedro troglio

DATE OF BIRTH: 28.07.1965
BIRTHPLACE: Lujan, Buenos Aires, Argentina
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Verona and Ascoli (Italy)
POSITION: Midfielder
NICKNAME: Chancha
MARITAL STATUS: Married
OCCUPATION: Professional football player
BEST ASPECT OF YOUR GAME: Ball control and speed
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Diego Maradona
BEST PLAYER IN JAPAN: Okana (Red Diamonds)
FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYER: Stoichkov (Parma, Italy)
FAVOURITE OVERSEAS CLUB: Lazio (Italy)
EUROPE '96 TIP? Spain
HONOURS: Libertadores and Toyota Cups Champion with River Plate of Argentina in 1986. World Cup runners-up with Argentina in Italy '90.
AMBITIONS FOR 1996: To perform well and to play one more year in Japan.
AMBITIONS AFTER RETIRING: Look after my business
MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT: Libertadores Cup 1986 and 1990 World Cup.

HOBBIES OUTSIDE SOCCER: Fishing
BEST GOAL YOU'VE SEEN: Diego Maradona against England in Mexico '86.

FAVOURITE FOOD: BBQ South American style.

FAVOURITE DRINK: White wine

CAR YOU DRIVE: Mercedes 300 coupe

FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Video match (Argentina)

FAVOURITE MOVIE: Last snow in Spring

FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Robert de Niro and Meryl Streep

PREFERRED MUSIC: Melodic

LEAST PREFERRED MUSIC: Opera

FAVOURITE COMEDIAN: Luis Landriscina (Argentine)

SPECIAL ADVICE TO YOUNG PLAYERS: Sacrifice

WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET: Ayrton Senna (unfortunately died a few years ago).



carlos pachame

DATE OF BIRTH: 25.02.1944
BIRTHPLACE: Portin Olavarria, Buenos Aires, Province, Argentina.
PREVIOUS CLUBS: National Training Centre Japan Football Federation.
POSITION: Coach supervisor
NICKNAME: Pacha
MARITAL STATUS: Married
OCCUPATION: Professional coach and FIFA instructor.
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Diego Maradona
BEST PLAYER IN JAPAN: Okana (Red Diamonds)
FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYER: Balbo-Batistuta
FAVOURITE OVERSEAS CLUB: Estudiantes (Argentina)
EUROPE '96 TIP? Germany
HONOURS: Argentine National team 1968-69-76; Libertadores Cup 1968-69-70; 1968 Intercontinental Cup.
AMBITIONS FOR 1996: To have a good campaign with Avispa
AMBITIONS AFTER RETIRING: Enjoy the country life
MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT: Winning the 1968 Inter Continental Cup.
HOBBIES OUTSIDE SOCCER: Play music (saxo) and polo
BEST GOAL YOU'VE SEEN: Diego Maradona against England in Mexico '86.
FAVOURITE FOOD: Suckling pig
FAVOURITE DRINK: Red wine
CAR YOU DRIVE: Porsche Carrera 911
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Any football show
FAVOURITE MOVIE: —
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Bruce Willis and Julia Roberts
PREFERRED MUSIC: Rock and Classic
FAVOURITE COMEDIAN: Alberto Olmedo (Argentine)
SPECIAL ADVICE TO YOUNG PLAYERS: Love the game
WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET: The Pope

FA CUP

Liverpool leave it late to win comfortably

SHREWSBURY 0
LIVERPOOL 4

Liverpool brushed off an F.A. Cup fourth-round challenge from second division Shrewsbury with a 4-0 victory last Sunday, yet it took a 70th minute own goal to turn the match firmly its way.

The win took the Reds into a fifth-round home tie against first division contender Charlton Athletic on February 28.

Shrewsbury went into the twice-postponed game, at its Gay Meadow home, seeking a result to match its giant-killing triumph over Manchester City in 1979. Its chances were dimmed early in the game by Stan Collymore's eighth-minute goal.

Liverpool took time to build on its early score. Shrewsbury briefly threatened early in the second half before the premier league aristocrat finally produced a semblance of the ruthlessness that destroyed Rochdale 7-0 in round three.

Dave Walton turned a Phil Babb header past his own goalkeeper in the 70th and then compounded his anguish five minutes later when he gave the ball away on the edge of the box to Robbie Fowler. His 26th goal of the season was scored as he rounded keeper Paul Edwards and practically walked the ball into the net.

It was not until four minutes from time that Jason McAteer finished off a more Liverpool style goal after Collymore and Steve McManaman had provided the build-up.

The pre-match minute's silence for deceased former Liverpool boss Bob Paisley, observed with admirable



Steve McManaman: Helped to provide Jason McAteer with the fourth goal.

respect by a 7,752 crowd, seemed to extend into the game itself.

Liverpool achieved an immediate advantage and even the most partisan Shrewsbury supporter could not remember when Liverpool keeper David James was seriously troubled during the entire 90 minutes.

**MANCHESTER UNITED 2
MANCHESTER CITY 1**

A 77th minute left-foot volley from Lee Sharpe gave Manchester United a 2-1 win over Manchester City in a thrilling F.A. Cup fifth-round match last

Sunday to keep United on course for a third-successive Final appearance.

German striker Uwe Rosler put Manchester City into a 1-0 lead when he chipped United's Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel after only 11 minutes as City searched for its first win at

Old Trafford in 22 years.

But the fates turned against City in the 38th minute after it had largely dominated the first half.

City's German goalie Eike Immel made an outstanding save and conceded a corner. From the kick newly signed City defender Michael Frontzeck another German, held down Frenchman Eric Cantona right in front of the referee.

Although neither man seemed to be interfering with play, the referee stunned most of Old Trafford when he pointed to the spot.

But he could not faze Cantona, who stepped up and smacked home his tenth goal of the season.

Ryan Giggs and overlapping defender Philip Neville set up the winner for United with Neville crossing perfectly for Sharpe to crack the ball home first time.

ENGLISH FA CUP QUARTER FINALS DRAW

Leeds or Port Vale v
Liverpool or Charlton
Nottingham Forest or
Tottenham v Aston
Villa

Manchester United v
Swindon or
Southampton
Grimsby or Chelsea v
Huddersfield or
Wimbledon

Ties to be played on
March 9, 10 or 11.



Lee Sharpe: His 77th minute left-foot volley proved to be the winner for United.

Atletico power-on in Spain

Atletico Madrid maintained its eight-point at the top of the Spanish first division last weekend when it became the first side to win at Espanyol for 16 months.

Atletico's 2-0 victory erased the doubts over the staying power of Radomir Antic's side that arose after the week before's home defeat by Sevilla.

Barcelona stays second after winning 2-1 at Oviedo, with surprise package Compostela hanging on to third, one point behind, after its 1-0 win at Rayo Vallecano.

Atletico was led to victory by international forward Kiko Narvaez, who put his side ahead with a bizarre goal just before half time.

The striker rose above the defence to meet a corner, only to see his header punched acrobatically off the line by Espanyol midfielder, Branko Brnovic. The ball rebounded off the post, and was knocked

in by Atletico's Juanma Lopez. The referee showed Brnovic the yellow card. He could have sent him off and awarded a penalty. The referee's decision meant that Kiko was credited with the goal.

Bulgarian international Lyuboslav Penev combined well with Kiko after the break. It was Penev that sealed the game in the 76th minute when he headed home the second after Serbian set-piece specialist, Milinko Pantic had hit the post with a free-kick.

Atletico at times lived dangerously, and played the last ten minutes with only ten men after Santi Denia picked up his second yellow card for a clumsy challenge.

At the end of the game referee Brito Arceo doubled up in pain after being hit in the groin by an orange thrown from the stands.

Similar incidents have been dealt with severely by the Spanish authorities, and in some cases clubs have seen their stadiums closed.



Raul Gonzalez: Has extended his contract at Real Madrid.

BARCA BREAK AWAY WIN HOODOO

Barcelona got off to a great start in their game at Oviedo with a goal in the first minute from club captain Jose Maria Bakero.

Oviedo came back through Oli Alvarez, but Guillermo Amor scored the winner ten minutes from time against the run of play.

It was Barcelona's first win away from home for four months.

Valencia leapfrogged Espanyol to take fourth place, four points behind Barcelona, after their goalless draw at Real Madrid on Saturday.

REAL BOOED BY OWN FANS

Real played their worst game since the arrival of coach Arsenio Iglesias four weeks ago, and at times the side was booed by the fans in

the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, especially Danish playmaker Michael Laudrup who was substituted 25 minutes from the end.

Real are now in seventh place, 18 points behind leaders Atletico, with their hopes of retaining the championship virtually nil.

Jose Galvez had Real keeper Paco Buyo in trouble with the game just a minute old as Valencia took control of the game and created a hatful of half-chances.

But the best chance of all fell to Real's 18-year-old striker Raul Gonzalez, who this week signed a contract that will keep him at the Club until 2005.

Raul pounced on a superb pass from Fernando Hierro midway through the first half, but his beautifully weighted lob hit the bar with the Valencia defence stranded.

Iglesias was unhappy with his players.

"They looked a bit sad, they shouldn't be like that," he said.

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➔ This Friday evening (Feb. 23) at the NSW Netball Centre round 6 of the Friday Night Indoor Soccer Challenge. Kicks off at 7.30pm with Parramatta Blues v Sydney United.

8.20pm — Sydney City v Coogee United
9.10pm — reunited v Lidcombe Spurs

The action is fast, furious and intense and great fun to watch. The venue is in Church Street, Lidcombe. If you get the chance to pop along and see what happens it's great fun for all the family.



➔ Manchester United now have the licence to "Marry" people at Old Trafford (Chelsea have had this for about three years now) on the pitch or on the premises. This opens up a whole new can of worms! What's next?

Perhaps a "lingerie" section at the club shop/superstore with all the little "extras" newlyweds might need?

A "consumation" around the centre circle consisting of a few good men holding up those beach "wind-breaks" perhaps? Not so much "Ooh ahh" for Cantona in the future eh? Beats the hell out of the usual half-time entertainment!

A creche is provided at most grounds now but what about an area that specialises

in letting you "start your creche member on hallowed ground" (at least to Manchester United supporters that is)? "Come to Old Trafford: Football, Weddings, Funerals, Christenings and Ye Olde Knocking Shop!"

Buy this week's shirt on the way out. Where will it all end?

Good luck to the club, never afraid to look at any avenue to raise extra revenue and at least it raises a smile!

➔ On the subject of Manchester United and Eric Cantona, overheard recently during the game with Wimbledon:

"Cantona's stepping up to take the penalty, hope he don't miss."

"He'll never miss another penalty in England mate!"

"Why do you say that?"

"Because the 'keepers are scared that should they save it he'll follow through!"

Wonder what was meant?

➔ Faustino Asprilla (left) made his debut as a substitute for Newcastle recently and some of the things he did were quite magical. Watching some of the moves in slow-motion was a delight: The back heel through the legs, the "Johan Cruyff" style change of direction...breathtaking.

He will be an asset to Newcastle and the English game and there can be no doubt as to where the title is heading this year but I wonder how long it will be before he starts keeping his socks up and wearing some extra-thick shin pads?

English football is no dirtier than any other but a few of the "locals" might just take exception to having the mickey taken out of them...Vinnie, Razor, Julian, Pearcey etc?

➔ Another rumour is that George Graham sent back a barrel of beer to a brewer in the UK last Christmas...there was no "bung" in it!

Wonder what he meant?

Geoff Hurst in Sydney - 1996

Jack Charlton told referee shot was definitely a goal

In this spot we'll look at some of the events that shaped Geoff's career and especially those leading up to the greatest day in English football, the likes of which have never been repeated...

➔ I was very fortunate to play in the World Cup finals themselves because I had a very bad pre-tournament build up. Alf Ramsay started off with Roger Hunt (Liverpool) and Jimmy Greaves in the team and I only came in when Jimmy was injured against the French in the quarter-final against Argentina.

➔ ...We all know that everyone from non-league and pub sides right up to international teams, have one or two players that can, shall we say, look after themselves.

That team from Argentina had seven or eight! They had a little left winger who was the dirtiest little so and so I've ever seen. The most notorious of those players was the late, great Antonio Rattin, their captain.

(He's not dead...but he was always very, very late!) In fact, he's a bit like an Exocet really...you know he's coming but there's bugger all you can do about it. He eventually got sent off for a nasty tackle on Alan Ball and arguing with the referee.

If you ever ask "Bally", he'll tell you that it was one of Rattin's "fairer challenges...it only caught him across the thighs!"

I'm being unfair to Rattin though because he was a very nice man...he'd kick lumps off you all afternoon but he would help you find them afterwards.

➔ A true story about the World Cup. About five years ago, the Germans again played England at Wembley for the 25th Anniversary. As is customary, the night before the game you are allowed to train on the pitch.

The groundsman in his wisdom hadn't bothered to put the goalposts up or mark any of the lines and the entire German squad came in, Franz Beckenbauer and Bertie Vogts (German

coach these days) included, at the end of the disputed goal when Bertie turned to Franz and the rest of the squad and declared: "Look! zey haf removed ze evidence!"

➔ ...When asked as to why we were so successful, I put it down to Sir Alf. Alf Ramsay was a brilliant manager, very simplistic and three things sum it up for me.

We had five "world class" players in 1966 — Gordon Banks in goal, Bobby Moore, Bobby Charlton, Ray Wilson (left back) and Jimmy Greaves.

We had a simple pattern of 4-4-2 where Alf got players from the clubs to perform exactly as they did for their side, which was a

whatever at the hotel etc and it'd be half-way through, about 10.30pm, and Alf would simply put his head through the door and say: "Goodnight gentlemen" in a very quiet tone.

Within five minutes the place was empty, every player would be up in their bedroom, out the way. For years, the entire England squad was the only team that didn't know Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid died in the end!

➔ ...I've been working in the extended warranty business for almost 15 years now along with my old team-mate Martin Peters. I still see him quite regularly although I've been transferred out of the "Car warranty" side of

like his brother Jackie, is into everything and has a prospering Travel business and Gordon Banks and Nobby Stiles are doing very nicely on the "speaking circuit", after dinner speaking and nights like tonight. Ray Wilson is an undertaker.

Jimmy Greaves works on TV and Radio and of course "Mooro" sadly passed away recently, I still have contact with most of them but that's roughly what some of us do.

When asked for his reaction to the disputed goal... "Miles in! Do you have German parents?"

➔ ...When talking about "that goal", what many people don't realise is how it started. Nobby Stiles hit a great ball — he used to

couldn't, I was just playing for time!"

Bally played a perfect ball for me at the near-post, a move we pioneered at West Ham, but I made my run too early. I had to take a couple of touches to get myself back in control to hit the ball.

As I hit it on the half-turn, I fell over and the video of the game will show that I've got my back to the goal when the ball goes in. I had probably the worst view of anybody.

There was a great deal of confusion when the ball crossed the line but watch the film today, and I've said this for 30 years, the person with the best view was my striking partner that day, Roger Hunt.

He was only a couple of yards away when the ball came down behind the line and instinctively in sport the reaction is, if you're not sure that ball is in, you attempt to put it in but instead he shouts "Goal" or "It's there" or whatever, raises his arm and wheels away.

Roger is a very honest player. Instinctively he thought it was in and I've gone on that for 30 years, quite frankly, I wanted to believe it was a goal very strongly and that was good enough for me.

However, while this was happening, big Jack Charlton had sprinted the five yards to the referee and told him it was DEFINITELY a goal because he had the best view of the incident from where he was... on the half-way line!

Unfortunately we have to stop it there when there is still so much more to tell and "one liners" to repeat but that's life! If you're very lucky, Geoff may be back in Australia this year or next and if the opportunity arises, go along and see the man.

I hope this offers a small insight into his life, "the goal", humour and everything.

Be assured that to sit and listen to the man and laugh along with him at his own expense most of the time — is great fun.



The 'forward line' at Blacktown City Soccer Club. Back Row: Micky Almond — WHU Supporters' Club, Stuart Jones; Front Row: Gary Williams — Sports Promoter, Yours truly, Geoff Hurst.

very simple answer to an age-old problem of only being able to coach the players for just three days a month.

The last thing was that discipline was as strong, as hard as anything I've ever seen in football or subsequently in the last 15 years of my business life.

Alf was never one to shout and scream. I never once saw him lose his temper with a player on the pitch or off or on tour, when a quiet word would do.

As an example of that, on a Monday night before a Wednesday game we'd watch a feature film or

things and into the "extended warranty" area.

If you buy a TV or whatever, you have an option of extending your warranty for five years or so and my company, which is American based, underwrite that warranty and we're the biggest of our kind in the world.

I've been with them for almost 15 years now...since I got the sack as manager of Chelsea...in 1981...April 23rd...

So that's what we're doing. Roger Hunt has just sold his very successful transport business and is playing off his seven handicap, Bobby Charlton,

wear contact lenses and we were always knocking him about what he couldn't see etc. but in those days the things weren't the tiny little lenses they are today.

He used to spend about half an hour before each game putting them in and using this liquid solution to help them slide in properly, it became a bit of a ritual.

Anyway, he hit this wonderful 30-40 yard ball to Alan Ball on the right wing and this resulted in the goal.

It was nearing the end of the first half of extra time and I said to Nobby after the game: "What a great ball, I didn't think you could see that far," and he said: "I

Bob Paisley's feats 'beyond emulation'

Former Liverpool manager Bob Paisley, who died in a Liverpool nursing home last Thursday after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease, was one of the most successful managers in the history of English soccer.

Former Liverpool captain Emlyn Hughes led the tributes to his former boss, saying: "He was a super fellow. He was Liverpool through and through."

"When he reluctantly took over from (Bill) Shankly he did the impossible because nobody thought it was possible to better what Shanks had achieved," he added.

Paisley, the son of a County Durham coal miner, who was 77 last month, succeeded Liverpool's legendary Shankly in 1974 after joining the club as a player just after the Second World War.

He played more than 250 League and Cup games for Liverpool between 1946 and 1953, but made a far more significant contribution to the club as manager, guiding them to 13 trophies in nine years.

Though he was reluctant to take over the manager's post he managed to improve the Anfield club's already formidable record.

Under his managership they only once finished lower than second.

He made the club the most feared force in European football, winning three European Cups in 1977, 1978 and 1981 as well as a host of domestic trophies.

Paisley finally stepped down as boss at the end of the 1982-83 season, having led Liverpool to the league title in 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1982 and 1983.

Under Paisley the Reds also won the League Cup in 1981, 1982 and 1983 as well as the UEFA Cup in 1976.

He was also named



Bob Paisley: Guided Liverpool to 13 trophies in 9 years.

Manager of the Year 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1982 and 1983.

Hughes added: "He has got to be ranked alongside the greats of the game. When you talk of the greats you think of Sir Matt Busby, Jock Stein and Shanks and if he is not among them he should be above them because none of them achieved what he did in the domestic game."

Remembering the Reds' famous 3-1 European Cup final triumph over Borussia Monchengladbach, Hughes said: "It was probably the greatest night in the club's history and I was lucky enough to be captain."

"I remember going up to Bob at the end of the game and hugging him...it was a great moment between a manager and his captain."

Paisley stayed at the club as a director as well as an advisor for his successors Joe Fagan and Kenny

Dalglish, but his 53-year Liverpool association finally ended in February, 1992, through ill-health.

Paisley's one disappointment was his failure to lift the FA Cup — Liverpool were denied the double in 1977 when Manchester United beat them 2-1 at Wembley — but he will be remembered as the greatest servant the club has had.

His love-affair with the club started on May 8, 1939, when Paisley stepped off the train at Liverpool's Lime Street station from his native Newcastle where he helped Bishop Auckland win the FA Amateur Cup.



Paisley was a member of Liverpool's championship-winning team of 1947 and scored the winning goal in the 1950 FA Cup semi-final against Everton.

But he was left out of the side that lost to Arsenal in the FA Cup Final, always a major disappointment to

him. "I never dreamed what the future would hold for me...certainly I never even suspected that more than half-a-century later I would be a director having served the club as player, trainer, physiotherapist, coach and manager," he wrote.

Paisley would have played more games for Liverpool but for the Second World War during which he fought in the deserts of North Africa for four years before riding on a tank through liberated Rome.

After the war it was back to Liverpool who won the league title in 1946-47 before hanging up his boots four years later.

He was persuaded to join the backroom staff when he had been prepared to return to his former trade as a bricklayer before becoming Shankly's loyal assistant.

Liverpool finished runners-up to Derby County at the end of his first season in charge but never looked back from then, with Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness among the players who helped him carve his place in Liverpool folklore.

Souness said: "I learned more about football from him than anyone else. He is someone who should be remembered as long as the football club exists."

Dave Sexton, in charge of Liverpool's fiercest rivals Manchester United for part of the Paisley era, said: "He was probably the shrewdest football man that I have ever met — and a very nice one as well."

"The Liverpool tradition, of which Bob was such a big part, was to aim for excellence. But I also found him one of the most sporting losers on the rare occasions when he had to be."

"That is what sport should always be all about and Bob Paisley represented that to the highest degree."

Premier League Team

ACHILLES

BLACKBURN

BY STUART JONES

Tim Flowers (G) — Born Kenilworth in 1967. Started at Wolverhampton Wanderers until a move to Southampton on loan turned into a permanent transfer. He twice went on loan to Swindon.

After 192 appearances for Soton, Flowers moved to big spending Blackburn where he cemented a spot as first choice keeper. He is also an England international, currently fighting with David Seaman for the number one jersey.

Bobby Mimms (G) — Born 1963 in York. He left Halifax Town for Rotherham where he played 83 games. He then moved to Everton where he was loaned out to Notts County, Sunderland, Blackburn and Manchester City at differing times. He moved to Tottenham and there he was also loaned out — this time to Aberdeen. His current spell at Blackburn has seen him play for the club 126 times.

Henning Berg (D) — Born Eidsvoll, Norway in 1969. Left Lillestrom for Blackburn Rovers. Norway international.

Colin Hendry (D) — Born Keith, Scotland in 1965. Started at Islavale where he moved from to join Dundee. His first spell at Ewood Park saw 102 games and 22 goals. A spell at Manchester City followed before finally returning to Rovers. Scottish international and a rock in defence.

Graeme Le Saux (D) — Born Jersey in 1968. Was playing for St Pauls when Chelsea came in for him. He made his next move to current club Blackburn Rovers. Is an England international.

Jeff Kenna (D) — Born Dublin in 1970. Was a trainee at Southampton who he played for 114 times. Joined Blackburn last season. Irish international.

Chris Coleman (D) — Born Swansea in 1970. He played for his local league club Swansea before moving to Crystal Palace. This season he left relegated Palace for Champions Rovers. Welsh international.

Nicky Marker (D) — Born Exeter in 1965. Played for both Exeter and Plymouth 202 times. He now plays for the Rovers.

Paul Warhurst (D) — Born Stockport in 1969. Trainee at Manchester City but never made it to the first team. Paul moved on to Lodham before a move to Sheffield Wednesday. Made his name there and was turned into a very successful striker for a brief spell. Moved to Blackburn where injuries have plagued him.

Lars Bohinen (M) — Born Vadso, Norway in 1966. Left Young Boys, Switzerland for Nottingham Forest before a controversial move to Blackburn this season. Norway international.

Lee Makel (M) — Born Sunderland in 1973. Played 12 games for Newcastle before moving to Blackburn.

Tim Sherwood (M) — Born St Albans in 1959. Trainee at Watford before a move to Norwich and finally to Blackburn. Current captain whilst Hendry is out injured.

David Batty (M) — Born Leeds in 1968. Played for Leeds in their championship winning side before moving to Blackburn. England international.

Billy McKinlay (M/F) — Played for Dundee United, a recent acquisition for Rovers. 12 appearances for Scotland.

Stuart Ripley (F) — Born Middlesbrough in 1967. Played for Boro 249 times, was also loaned to Bolton in this time. Move to Blackburn. Got an England cap in 1994.

Jason Wilcox (F) — Born Bolton in 1971. Trainee at Blackburn. Played 150 times for them with 19 goals.

Kevin Gallacher (F) — Born Clydebank in 1966. Scottish international who started his league career by leaving Duntocher BC for Dundee United. Left them for Coventry, and a swap with Roy Wergerle saw Gallacher arrive at Ewood Park.

Chris Sutton (F) — Born Nottingham in 1973. Played for Norwich before his five million pound move to Blackburn (then an English record fee). 15 goals for Blackburn after his 35 goals for the Canaries (in 102 games).

Mike Newell (F) — Born Liverpool in 1965. Played for Crewe and then Wigan, Luton and Leicester. he moved back to Merseyside and played for Everton before his move to Blackburn Rovers.

Alan Shearer (F) — Born Newcastle in 1970. Tried for Newcastle as a goalie only because none of the other boys would go in goal!

Joined Southampton before moving to Blackburn where he has scored 100 goals for the club. England international — Shearer has scored a goal on his debut at either a new club or as an international player at youth and full level.

Ray Harford is manager with Kenny Dalglish, Director of Football matters. Blackburn is the house that Jack (Walker) built.



STUART RIPLEY



LARS BOHINEN

RATINGS OF ENGLISH GROUNDS

TEAM	MANSFIELD TOWN	MIDDLESBROUGH	MILLWALL
GROUND	Field Mill	Riverside Stadium	The New Den
CAPACITY	7,073	30,000	20,145
RECORD GATE	24,467 (1953)	30,011 (1996)	20,093 (1994)
DEBUT	1919	1995	1993
BY RAIL	Mansfield Alfreton Parkway	Middlesbrough	South Bermondsey BR Surrey Quays (Tube)
COMMENTS	Old ground but the Stags ground isn't the worst I've seen. From the car park it does not look much. Room to expand.	Magnificent hard to get to but at looks great on the river. A century away from the old Ayresome Park.	Great ground — hard to get to if Sth Bermondsay closed. The crowds are fairly small for such a great ground. Any club would be proud of such a ground.
ACCESSIBILITY RATING /5	2	2.5	3
OVERALL GROUND RATING /10	5.5	8.5	9

'6 FROM 38 POOLS'



THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 552

SAT. 24th FEBRUARY, 1996

ENGLISH PREMIER DIV.	BLACKBURN	LIVERPOOL	1
	BOLTON	MAN. UTD	2
	COVENTRY	MIDDLESBRO	3
	EVERTON	NOTTINGHAM F.	4
	TOTTENHAM	SHEFFIELD WED.	5
ENGLISH DIVISION 1	DERBY	PORTSMOUTH	6
	HUDDERSFIELD	CRYSTAL P.	7
	OLDHAM	CHARLTON	8
	PORT VALE	GRIMSBY	9
	READING	LEICESTER	10
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	SHEFFIELD UTD	BARNLEY	11
	SUNDERLAND	LUTON	12
	TRANMERE	STOKE	13
	WATFORD	IPSWICH	14
	WOLVES	SOUTHEND	15
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	BLACKPOOL	BRIGHTON	16
	BRISTOL C.	BRADFORD C.	17
	CARLISLE	OXFORD UTD	18
	CREWE	BOURNEMOUTH	19
	HULL	BURNLEY	20
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	NOTTS COUNTY	SHREWSBURY	21
	ROTHERHAM	CHESTERFIELD	22
	SWINDON	BRISTOL R.	23
	WALSALL	BRENTFORD	24
	WREXHAM	PETERBORO	25
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	WYCOMBE	STOCKPORT	26
	YORK	SWANSEA	27
	CAMBRIDGE U.	BURY	28
	CARDIFF	GILLINGHAM	29
	COLCHESTER	DARLINGTON	30
ENGLISH DIVISION 6	FULHAM	EXETER	31
	HARTLEPOOL	LEYTON O.	32
	HEREFORD	SCARBORO	33
	LINCOLN	CHESTER	34
	MANSFIELD	ROCHDALE	35
ENGLISH DIVISION 7	NORTHAMPTON	DONCASTER	36
	PLYMOUTH	BARNET	37
	SCUNTHORPE	PRESTON	38

RESERVE MATCHES

* ENGLISH DIVISION 3	WIGAN A.	TORQUAY	39
	CELTIC	PARTICK	40
	HIBERNIAN	FALKIRK	41
	KILMARNOCK	HEARTS	42
	MOTHERWELL	RAITH	43
SCOTTISH PREMIER DIV.	DUNDEE	ARDRIE	44
	DUNFERMLINE	DUNDEE U.	45
	G'N'CK MORTON	DUMBARTON	46
	HAMILTON	CLYDEBANK	47
	ST MIRREN	ST JOHNSTONE	48
SCOTTISH DIVISION 1	BERWICK	STIRLING A.	49
	CLYDE	FORFAR	50
	EAST FIFE	AYR	51
	MONTROSE	Q. OF SOUTH	52
	STENH' MUIR	STRANRAER	53
SCOTTISH DIVISION 2	ALLOA	ALBION R.	54
	ARBROATH	LIVINGTON	55

* ENGLISH DIVISION 3

SCORE DRAWS ARE CALCULATED FROM GAME 38 BACKWARD

GET YOUR POOLS IN

Don't forget
Pools Quick Pick

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 551

SAT. 17TH FEBRUARY, 1996

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	CRYSTAL P.	WATFORD	1	4-0
	LUTON	MILLWALL	2	1-0
	PORTSMOUTH	SUNDERLAND	3	2-2
	SOUTHEND	DERBY	4	1-2
	STOKE	BIRMINGHAM	5	1-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	WEST BROM	TRANMERE	6	1-1
	BOURNEMOUTH	BLACKPOOL	7	1-0
	BRISTOL R.	ROTHERHAM	8	1-0
	BURNLEY	YORK	9	3-3
	CHESTERFIELD	WYCOMBE	10	3-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	STOCKPORT	NOTTS COUNTY	11	2-0
	BARNET	WIGAN A.	12	5-0
	BURY	LINCOLN	13	7-1
	CHESTER	SCUNTHORPE	14	3-0
	DARLINGTON	MANSFIELD	15	1-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	DONCASTER	PLYMOUTH	16	0-0
	EXETER	CAMBRIDGE U.	17	1-0
	GILLINGHAM	HEREFORD	18	1-1
	LEYTON O.	NORTHAMPTON	19	2-0
	PRESTON	COLCHESTER	20	2-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	ROCHDALE	FULHAM	21	1-1
	SCARBORO	CARDIFF	22	1-0
	TORQUAY	HARTLEPOOL	23	0-0
	BROMSGROVE	MACCLESFIELD	24	1-0
	DAG'HAM & R.	STALYBRIDGE	25	4-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 6	HEDNESFORD	BATH	26	2-1
	MORECAMBE	ALTRINCHAM	27	7-0
	NORTHWICH	HALIFAX	28	1-1
	RUNCORN	FARNBORO	29	0-3
	SLOUGH	KETTERING	30	1-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 7	SOUTHPORT	WOKING	31	2-2
	STEVENAGE	GATESHEAD	32	1-1
	TELFORD	DOVER	33	1-0
	WELLING UTD	KID'MINSTER	34	0-0
	CRAWLEY	BALDOCK	35	1-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 8	GRAVESEND	ATHERSTONE	36	2-1
	GRESLEY	DORCHESTER	37	0-2
	HASTINGS. T.	HALESOWEN	38	0-2

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 0055 33111 Australia, Wide. Or, Sydney 0055 29043; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.
Results are available from 8pm.
Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 17/2/96 WEEK 551

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURED										NO. OF WEEKS NUMBER OCCURED									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70

Results History is from Week 38, the start of six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF WEEK 551 SAT. FEBRUARY 17, 1996

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):

3, 9, 21, 28, 31, 32.

Supplementary Number 18.

SOCCER POOLS FORM GUIDE

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE										ENGLISH DIVISION ONE									
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts				P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Newcastle	25	19	3	3	49	20	60			Derby	30	15	10	5	48	32	55		
Manchester Utd	26	15	6	5	47	29	51			Charlton	29	13	11	5	42	30	50		
Liverpool	26	14	7	5	50	22	49			Stoke	29	12	9	8	41	34	45		
Aston Villa	25	13	8	6	34	18	45			Huddersfield	29	12	9	8	38	32	45		
Tottenham	26	11	9	6	33	25	42			Sunderland	29	11	12	6	33	25	45		
Blackburn	26	12	5	9	40	28	41			Southend	30	12	8	10	35	37	44		
Arsenal	26	11	8	7	34	25	41			Barnsley	29	11	10	8	40	44	43		
Everton	26	11	7	8	39	28	40			Leicester	29	10	11	8	43	40	41		
Nottingham Forest	26	10	10	6	35	35	40			Millwall	32	10	11	11	31	40	41		
Chelsea	27	10	9	8	31	28	39			Ipswich	28	10	10	8	50	41	40		
Leeds	25	10	5	10	31	37	35			Portsmouth	32	10	10	12	50	50	40		
West Ham	26	10	5	11	29	36	35			Norwich	31	10	9	12	42	40	38		
Middlesbrough	27	9	6	12	28	37	33			Birmingham	28	10	9	9	36	36	39		
Sheffield Wed	26	7	8	11	36	42	29			Crystal Palace	28	9	12	7	36	33	39		
Southampton	25	5	10	10	25	36	25			Grimsb'y	30	9	12	9	35	37	35		
Wimbledon	26	6	6	14	36	52	24			Tranmere	29	9	9	11	38	34	36		
Coventry	26	5	9	12	33	49	24			Wolverhampton	28	8	11	10	38	39	35		
Manchester City	26	6	6	14	16	36	24			Oldham	28	8	11	9	37	31	35		
QPR	27	6	3	18	22	41	21			Luton	29	9	8	12	29	40	35		
Bolton	27	4	4	19	28	52	16			Reading	29	7	12	10	33	38	33		
										ENGLISH DIVISION TWO									

SEE P24 FOR SCOTTISH TABLES

Soccer players win big

A 39-year-old pharmacist from Sydney's northern suburbs with a good brain for maths, heads a syndicate which won \$367,000 on the soccer pools, the New South Wales Lotteries announced last week.

The Polish-born chemist from Wahroonga invested \$4,000 in a pools entry after a win at the Syney Casino.

"I won \$5,000 at the Sydney Casino playing roulette using my knowledge of probability, because I have a good brain for mathematics."

"I used some of the money to finance a systems entry on behalf of my syndicate - it turned out to be a very good investment," he said in a statement.

The winner, who migrated from

Poland as a teenager, heads a syndicate of 50 friends and amateur soccer players united by common interests.

"Some of us are Polish, and some of us play soccer, but we all love drinking vodka and we all want to win on the pools," said the pharmacist, who declined to be named.

He said he would use his share of the winnings to play the stock market.

The syndicate shared the first-division prize pool with a 65-year-old retired machinist from Blacksmiths, on the NSW central coast, who said he would use his winnings to buy a new house and upgrade his fishing boat.

Snooker ball and coins thrown

English First Division side Birmingham could be made to play a game behind closed doors after coins and a snooker ball were thrown on to the pitch during English League Cup semi-final defeat by Leeds on December 11.

Leeds skipper Gary McAllister, a Scottish international, was struck by a missile as he prepared to take a corner. He was unhurt.

Referee Keith Cooper told the English Football Association (F.A.) that other coins and a snooker ball were also thrown from the crowd during Leeds' 2-1 first-leg win.

Two weeks ago the F.A. found Birmingham guilty of two misconduct charges following a trouble-scarred game with Millwall in November and warned them that any further trouble could mean them playing a home match behind closed doors.

Adjournment in Venables actions

England supremo Terry Venables does not want to defend any court actions this year because he will be concentrating on the European championships, his lawyers said last week.

He successfully applied for adjournment of a High Court action by the Department of Trade and Industry which is trying to ban him from acting as a company director.

The adjournment until July 15 this year was granted after Mr Registrar Rawson read a letter from the Football Association pleading for Venables to be given the chance to get on with his job.

Ian Burton, solicitor acting for Venables, said after proceedings that even when the case returns to court, the amount of work needed to prepare the action would mean that it would not begin this year.

"Mr Venables will be devoting his time preparing the England football team for the European Cup," said Burton.

But there are two actions that may be outside Venables's powers to postpone until 1997 — a libel case brought by Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar and a claim for allegedly unpaid fees by Bryan Fugler, Venables's former solicitor.



Vinny Jones: Claimed Gullit tricked referee.

Jones hit in pocket again

Wimbledon hard man Vinnie Jones was last week fined \$44,077 for his recent newspaper attack on Dutch veteran Ruud Gullit.

It was the fifth substantial fine for the transfer-seeking midfielder in the past three years.

The English Football Association considered banning Jones, but spokesman Steve Double said: "He was hit in the pocket rather than with a suspension because we accepted that Wimbledon did not have any control over the article — or him."

Jones claimed that Chelsea's Gullit had tricked the referee into sending him off for the 12th time in his career during Wimbledon's Boxing Day win at Stamford Bridge.

FA CUP

Injured 'Chief' strikes in the nick of time



Efan Ekoku: Injury-time winner saved Wimbledon from humiliation.

HUDDERSFIELD 2 WIMBLEDON 2

Nigerian star Efan Ekoku rescued Wimbledon from a humiliating FA Cup fifth round defeat at first division Huddersfield, while Premiership rival Southampton also hit back after going behind to second division Swindon last Saturday.

Huddersfield, FA Cup winner in 1922, had sent the capacity 17,000 crowd at its new state-of-the-art stadium into raptures by taking a two-goal lead after 58 minutes through Rodney Rowe and Tom Cowan.

But Ekoku hit back with two goals — the second in injury time — to grab the 1988 FA Cup Final winner an ill-deserved replay.

Understudy Rowe, who only made the team because veteran striker Ronnie Jepson failed a late fitness test, gave them a seventh minute lead with his first goal of the season before left-back Tom Cowan added Town's second.

But Ekoku, playing despite a nose injury suffered

in the 1-0 fourth round replay victory over Middlesbrough last Tuesday, pulled one back after 65 minutes and saved the Londoners with a close-range header three minutes into injury time.

Ekoku, known by his team-mates as "The Chief", admitted: "That's definitely the most important goal I've scored for a long time."

Wimbledon boss Joe Kinnear hailed his side's famous never-say-die-spirit, adding: "You never know with us."

"I couldn't believe the position we were in at half-time. I lost count of the number of times we'd hit the woodwork. When that happens you begin to think it's not to be."

SOUTHAMPTON 1 GRIMSBY 1

Joint record signing Gordon Watson broke Swindon's hearts with a far-post header after 76 minutes after Matthew Le Tissier had swung over a wicked corner to cancel out Kevin Horlock's 32-minute strike.

Horlock missed a penalty when Swindon ousted

Oldham in their fourth round tie but he made no mistake this time, rifling a right-footed shot into the bottom left hand corner.

IPSWICH 1 ASTON VILLA 3

But first division Ipswich, the third non-Premiership club aiming to book a quarter-final berth at the expense of top-flight opposition, could not cope with the power of visitor Aston Villa, a comfortable 3-1 winner.

Villa took a 10th minute lead over Ipswich at Portman Road through emerging midfield talent Mark Draper. In-form Dwight Yorke, who netted both goals in the 2-2 League Cup semi-final first leg draw at Arsenal last Wednesday, took his goal tally to 19 for the season and seven in four games nine minutes later.

Midfielder Ian Taylor put Brian Little's men three up 10 minutes into the second half before Paul Mason grabbed a consolation for Ipswich with six minutes to go.

Page 27: More FA Cup match reports.

Cullis resigns after a week

One of the shortest managerial reigns in English football league history ended last Wednesday when Kevin Cullis resigned as Swansea's boss after just seven days in charge of the second division club.

Cullis, 37, was appointed earlier this month despite having no experience of league football as either a player or manager. He was previously in charge of the youth team at minor-league club Cradley, based near Birmingham.

Swansea lost 1-0 at home to Swindon in his first match in charge on Saturday and slumped 4-0 at Blackpool on Tuesday.

His reign equalled the second-shortest in league history, by Tim Ward at Exeter in March 1953. The shortest ever was three days by Bill Lambton at Scunthorpe in April 1959.

New Crystal Palace manager Dave Bassett was named as Selhurst Park boss back in May 1984, but changed his mind, without signing a contract, four days later and returned to Wimbledon.

Player and manager settle differences

Grimsby's Italian winger Ivano Bonetti, who suffered a fractured cheekbone during a dressing room row, settled his differences with player-manager Brian Laws last Wednesday.

The pair were involved in a heated exchange after first division Grimsby's 3-2 defeat at Luton on February 11.

Bonetti, formerly of Juventus and Torino, shook hands with Laws at a news conference and again on the pitch before Grimsby's FA Cup fourth round replay against premier league West Ham last Wednesday.

"There was an incident at Luton... and as manager I feel responsible for my actions," said Laws.

"I have apologised to the club, the players and Ivano Bonetti."

Laws reportedly offered his resignation in the wake of the incident but it was not accepted.



David Ginola: Last played on January 20.

When three games take six weeks

Suspended Newcastle winger David Ginola's three-match ban may eventually end up keeping him away from football for more than six weeks.

Newcastle's match against Southampton last Saturday was postponed because of the Saints' FA Cup involvement and their fixture against West Ham tomorrow (Wednesday) could also be delayed.

That means Ginola, who last played against Bolton on January 20, may not complete his suspension until this Saturday.

"To have over six weeks without a match is just incredible," he said. "You would think a three-match ban would be over in say two weeks, not a month and a half."



ERICSSON CUP MATCHES THIS WEEK

ROUND 21



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

WOLLONGONG CITY
v
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS
BRANDON PARK - 7:30PM



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

MARCONI FAIRFIELD
v
SYDNEY UNITED
MARCONI STADIUM - 7:00PM



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

UTS OLYMPIC
v
WEST ADELAIDE
LEICHHARDT OVAL - 7:30PM



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

SOUTH MELBOURNE
v
BRISBANE STRIKERS
BOB JANE STADIUM - 7:00PM



DATE - TO BE ANNOUNCED

CANBERRA COSMOS
v
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
BRUCE STADIUM - 7:30PM



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

ADELAIDE CITY 5
v
MORWELL FALCONS 0
HINDMARSH STADIUM



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